

Senior Tories stunned by swift announcement after four votes deny prime minister victory

Wounded Thatcher fights second round

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher last night lived up to her promise to go on fighting when she announced that she would contest the second round of the Tory leadership contest, having failed by just four votes to beat Michael Heseltine in a single round.

Her immediate declaration on hearing that she had polled 204 votes to Mr Heseltine's 152 stunned the party. Senior ministers had urged her to pause and consult before making any announcement.

Mrs Thatcher needed a minimum of 187 votes plus a margin of 56 over Mr Heseltine to prevent the contest going to a second round. Although she was technically close to achieving that, the result must badly damage her. She was denied the support of more than 100 MPs on top of those who had not backed her against the stalking horse Sir Anthony Meyer last year. Sixteen MPs abstained.

Standing on the steps of the British embassy in Paris, Mrs Thatcher declared: "I confirm my intention to let my name go forward for the second ballot." She has thus pre-empted her cabinet colleagues who would have expected her to step down in such circumstances. She has left her supporters shocked and the party stunned. Mrs Thatcher even surprised some of her campaign team who expected her to step down on any decision. Some ministers moved

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swiftly to the prime minister's support. Mr Hurd, who is with her at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, said: "The prime minister continues to have my full support. I am sorry that this destructive and unnecessary contest should be prolonged in this way."

Cecil Parkinson and Kenneth Clarke both emphasised that Mrs Thatcher would have been confirmed as leader without any further contest if only two more MPs had voted for her rather than Mr Heseltine. But MPs at all levels of the party were saying that Mrs Thatcher had "been fatally damaged" and that the end of her reign as leader of the party was in sight.

The close result was one that Tory MPs had dreaded and one that will delight the Labour party. Mrs Thatcher has survived the first round, but failed to attract the support of 168 of the party's 372 MPs. Her campaign team was warned by some MPs that they were prepared to back her on the first round, but would not do so if she went damaged into a second round.

Mr Heseltine, having won more support than had been expected, has built up considerable momentum. Mrs Thatcher faces the danger that many Tory MPs will conclude that she cannot lead the party to victory at the next election. By continuing with the struggle, she risks handing the leadership to a man she has condemned as backing Labour policies and jeopardising all that she stands for.

Mr Heseltine said that he was "overwhelmed with gratitude to my parliamentary colleagues who in such large measure have given me their support". He said that he had been supported by almost all those who had given him firm pledges by yesterday morning.

The prime minister's immediate reaction stunned her party and left potential leadership candidates within the cabinet with the terrible dilemma of whether to break ranks and challenge her. Mr Hurd, seen by many as the most credible cabinet unity challenger to Mr Heseltine, has ruled out entering a contest in which Mrs Thatcher is a candidate.

Friends of John Major, the Chancellor, had been confidently expecting him, too, to enter the second round. But as the man who proposed Mrs Thatcher for the contest he, too, is effectively ruled out.

The party will now be in turmoil until the second round of the contest next Tuesday. Candidates have to declare themselves by lunch-time tomorrow. Senior Tories will be in deep huddles over the next 24 hours as they consider whether they should encourage another challenger who could stand a better chance of beating Mr Heseltine in a third round two days after the next contest.

Mr Heseltine has gained as Mrs Thatcher did in 1975 from being the first into the field against the existing party leader and his challenge will now be taken very seriously. It will be watched with anxiety by the Labour party, which has noted the opinions polls which suggest that a Labour lead of around 10 points could be turned overnight into a Conservative lead of some four points.

Conservative MPs were delighted last night by only one thing: the motion of no confidence in the government tabled by Neil Kinnock for early debate this week. Nothing could be more guaranteed to pull together the ranks of the disunited Conservatives.

Immediately after the result was announced, the pound slipped by one cent in New York to \$1.9610, having closed at \$1.9735 in London. Against the pfm, the pound fell from DM2.9040 to around DM2.8950. Shares of UK companies quoted in New York fell by around 15 or 20 cents.

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Fighting on: Mr Heseltine and Mrs Thatcher yesterday, candidates in what Mr Hurd described as "this destructive and unnecessary contest"



Limelight-stealers spoil the challenger's day

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE challenger's efforts to make his fixed smile available in every chance-camera on polling day were almost hijacked twice during a gruelling day of photo-opportunities yesterday.

At his home in Belgrave, Mr Heseltine was preparing to rally forth for his first engagement of the day, a pose for the massed lenses crowding his doorstep, when there was a sudden diversion. Norman Tebbit, who lives a few doors away, cruised by in his car and saw a chance for mischief. The Tebbit car kerb-crawled, and he got out. Had the tide turned to Heseltine? The media chorused: "Funnily enough, it has turned off him again. I think it is significant *The Times* has come out firmly for Mrs Thatcher. I think that's an important factor."

Moments after he had got back into his car, the door opened and Mr and Mrs Heseltine emerged. They kissed each other goodbye. "Has my friend Norman been here?" asked Mr Heseltine suspiciously. It was the sum

total of his pronouncement before his chauffeur-driven Jaguar whisked him to his Victoria Street office half a mile away. Outside, another gaggle of media awaited, only to be diverted by Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, strolling up the street.

Mr Skinner divulged that he had taken an exit poll at 11, one hour after polling opened. Six had voted for Thatcher, one for Heseltine, and three refused to tell him. "What we've got here," said Mr Skinner, warning to his theme, "is a contest between two peroxide blondes, both millionaires. One has sixty million, the other ten million—or at least her husband does. And they're both into kinky costumes. They wear flak jackets, and she got dressed up as Elizabeth I the other night. It hasn't got much to do with the people I represent in Bolsover."

With Mr Skinner safely on his way, Mr Heseltine appeared, saying little. He had to walk just 10 yards to his car, but almost disappeared into a maul of photographers.

Dinner at Versailles or the Last Supper?

From MICHAEL BINYON IN PARIS

IT WAS a ticklish piece of diplomatic protocol. Were Mrs Thatcher's European summit colleagues, admirers and old sparring partners allowed to wish her luck? Was it etiquette? Was it domestic interference? Evidently many did, though British sources refused to say who. Surely at least President Gorbachev, the man who more than anyone brings a glint to her eye? Perhaps. They both held their *tête-à-tête*. — "a very good meeting" — blithely affecting nonchalance about domestic cares. "They both have iron in their backbone," was the gruff official comment.

But there was no nonchalance over Mrs Thatcher's fate among the fellow summiters. They looked on yesterday as though watching a Greek tragedy, awaiting the catharsis. The prime minister knew, and could not resist a little British understatement, for which we are all so celebrated in France. "I might be a little late," she told President Mitterrand,

apologising in advance if she was not in her seat when the curtain went up on the first Tchaikovsky pas de deux. The approaching dinner at Versailles grew to resemble the Last Supper. Mrs Thatcher fixed up a frenzy of appointments to keep herself busy: sessions with the Russians, President Mitterrand, Turgut Ozal of Turkey, and the no-nonsense Rued Lubbers of The Netherlands.

But her "distractions" at home were all anyone in Paris wanted to know about. Journalists were already setting up camp outside the British Embassy long before the fateful hour. Americans were searching out dusty descriptions of the departure of Churchill from the middle of the Potsdam conference, never to return. Japanese were trying to pronounce Heseltine.

History has been on everyone's mind at the European security summit. Many spent two days wondering if they were witnessing the end of an era and a phenomenon known as Thatcherism.

Arms treaty suspicions

American arms experts have cancelled a trip to Moscow amid suspicions about new Soviet figures on European tanks and artillery.

The cancellation comes only a day after the signing of the Conventional Arms in Europe treaty. Page 24

Whingeing on



Sir Peter Hall, 60 tomorrow, promises that he will continue "whingeing, complaining and carrying on" about government subsidies for the arts. Page 21

Sentence attack

A magistrate was strongly criticised yesterday after deciding not to send a man to jail when he was convicted of drinking and driving for the twelfth time. The man had already been banned from driving for 30 years. Page 4

Vicar accused

A country vicar had a 10-year affair with one of his married parishioners and when the liaison failed he seduced another woman who sought his help, a Church of England consistory court in Chichester was told. Page 5

Lending fall

Bank lending in the UK fell to \$4.6 billion from \$7.5 billion in September, according to Bank of England statistics, providing further evidence that the economy is slowing down. Page 25

Aliysa verdict

The Aga Khan's Aliysa, winner of the 1989 Oaks, was disqualified by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee, which found her trainer, Michael Stoute, in breach of the rules of racing after the filly failed a drug test. Page 46

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BR faces court on Clapham safety

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is to be prosecuted for alleged breaches of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, leading to the triple train crash at Clapham Junction in December 1988 in which 35 people died, the transport department announced yesterday.

BR has been summoned to appear before the South-Western magistrates' court in Bournemouth, south London, on January 7 to face criminal charges of failing to ensure the safety of its employees, and putting passengers at risk.

It is understood the Railway Inspectorate will ask magistrates to send the case to the crown court, where British Rail faces the prospect of an unlimited fine if found guilty.

The Clapham disaster occurred when the Poole to Waterloo express ran into the back of the Basingstoke to Waterloo train which had stopped because of a faulty signal. A third train then crashed into the wreckage.

The inquiry into the causes of the crash, conducted by Sir Anthony Hidden, QC, identified faulty wiring as the primary cause of the disaster. It also highlighted a series of shortcomings in British Rail, including poor supervision and ineffective management, which allowed the wiring error to pass unnoticed.

Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, decided there was insufficient evidence to bring any charges against individual employees for negligence or to prosecute British Rail for corporate manslaughter. However, the inquiry on the 35 deaths decided the victims were unlawfully killed. Last night British Rail was unable to

disclose how it intended to plead. British Rail could offer the defence that it was "impracticable" to do any more than it had to improve safety.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said: "We absolutely welcome the decision to further the inquest verdict of unlawful killing by taking British Rail to court." Relatives of the Clapham victims last night gave a cautious welcome. Timothy Newman, aged 14, from Poole, Dorset, whose father was killed in the disaster, said: "My family have welcomed the decision but are still not hopeful that it will be a success."

Julian Dalrymple, aged 50, from Southampton, who lost his son in the crash, said: "We have waited two long years for this. At last somebody may be held responsible for the death of my son."

Bush near agreement on force against Iraq

From MICHAEL EVANS IN PARIS

THE United States is now closer to winning enough world support for a new UN resolution, authorising the use of force against the Iraqis in Kuwait. In spite of continuing reservations, the Soviet Union is expected to back Washington.

However, it seems unlikely that President Bush will be able to leave for Saudi Arabia tomorrow to visit American forces with the wording of a new resolution in his pocket.

In separate talks with President Gorbachev, both President Bush and Margaret Thatcher received a strong impression that, given time, the Soviet leader would vote in favour of force at the UN Security Council.

Moscow has already made it clear that it will not veto such a resolution. Washington does not want the Soviet Union to take the next option, which is

to abstain. Having received Soviet backing on every other UN resolution on the Gulf, Washington is anxious to keep the Russians on board.

Even Moscow does not really favour the alternative of abstention, since it would be an admission that it could not make up its mind.

President Bush and President Gorbachev are to hold a summit in Moscow early next year, although there was no indication that this was to be Gulf-oriented. In public, the Moscow line continues to be that more effort was still needed to try and resolve the Gulf showdown peacefully.

However, after an hour with the Soviet leader yesterday, Mrs Thatcher's officials described the possibility of Moscow support for a new resolution as hopeful. "Mr Gorbachev said he wanted

further consultations and discussions at the UN, after the Prime Minister told him she hoped he could support a new Security Council resolution," one British official said.

"The Soviet leader sees the need to operate through the UN on the Gulf. But the Soviets want to make their own statement in their own time. We have to have in mind the Chinese, too."

Washington and London appear to have decided to handle the Soviet reservations with care and patience. But that did not prevent the Americans and British from conducting a series of high-pressure salesmanship forays to win backing for a new UN resolution.

On the second day of the 34-nation summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the Gulf pushed the European agenda to one side.

During a closed session in the afternoon, the leaders talked of issuing a joint declaration on the Gulf.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, met Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, twice. He is understood to have emphasised on both occasions that a new UN move was now needed to get the message across to President Saddam Hussein that he faced the certainty of war unless he withdrew his troops from Kuwait. The Baghdad announcement that another 250,000 troops were to be sent to Kuwait was being cited by

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Petrol prices down tomorrow

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PETROL prices will fall tomorrow to their lowest level since the invasion of Kuwait, with the third reduction at the pumps in eight days. Shell, Britain's second largest oil company, will cut prices by 4.5p a gallon (1p a litre) at its 2,800 filling stations from the start of business, signalling a new round of intense price competition. Other petrol companies are expected to follow Shell's lead in the next few days.

Prices at the pump have now dropped 31p from Shell's 239.6p a gallon record price at the start of October. Four-star petrol will be 208.7p (45.9p a litre) at Shell filling stations, with unleaded at 195p a gallon (42.9p a litre) and diesel 199.6p (43.9p).

The cost of Shell four-star is at its lowest since the confrontation in the Gulf sent prices spiralling upwards on fears over oil supplies. Shell was charging 207.7p for four-star at the end of July. Within five days of the August 2 invasion, prices were forced up to a record 214p.

The three-month lull in the Middle East has, however,

allowed confidence over supplies to seep back into world markets and bulk prices on the main Rotterdam exchange have fallen steadily in the last few weeks.

Jim Slavin, director of Shell's retail division, said: "This latest reduction brings our petrol price close to where they were before the Gulf crisis began." The Automobile Association said: "At the start of the conflict, the signs were very ominous indeed for prices. But things are easing, which is good news for motorists and businesses alike."

IN GQ THIS MONTH: MEN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH BLONDES, A COCKNEY IN HOLLYWOOD, BUILDING THE ULTIMATE HI-FI AND MEN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH BLONDES.



This month's GQ looks at the women most men fall for. Plus the Hollywood mogul from Hackney, awesome stress and classic jazz. GQ The men's magazine with an IQ. December issue out now.

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Man with 12 drink-driving convictions walks free

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES were strongly criticised yesterday after deciding not to send a man to jail when he was convicted of drinking and driving for the twelfth time.

Jeremy Smith, aged 27, admitted driving while over the legal alcohol limit, driving while disqualified and taking a vehicle without the owner's consent. He had already been banned from driving for 30 years in November 1989, and magistrates at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, gave Smith a four month jail term suspended for 18 months and disqualified him from driving for a further three years.

John Inglesant, chairman of the bench, told Smith that he should not consider that he was being let off as suspended sentences could easily be activated. Last night, however, MPs, voluntary groups and police organisations said that the sentence was too lenient.

Ian Welch, for the prosecution, had told the court that Smith, who was allowed to write down his present address, was stopped in Melton Mowbray on October 5 in a car taken from outside a house in Grantham. He had 61 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

Oliver D'Sa, defending, said that Smith was a pest with a deplorable record who had not cut back on his drinking, but told magistrates: "I urge you not to yield to the temptation to use prison as a social dustbin to nuke him away out of sight and out of mind." Smith was a sick and lonely man who suffered from the twin vices of alcohol and cars.

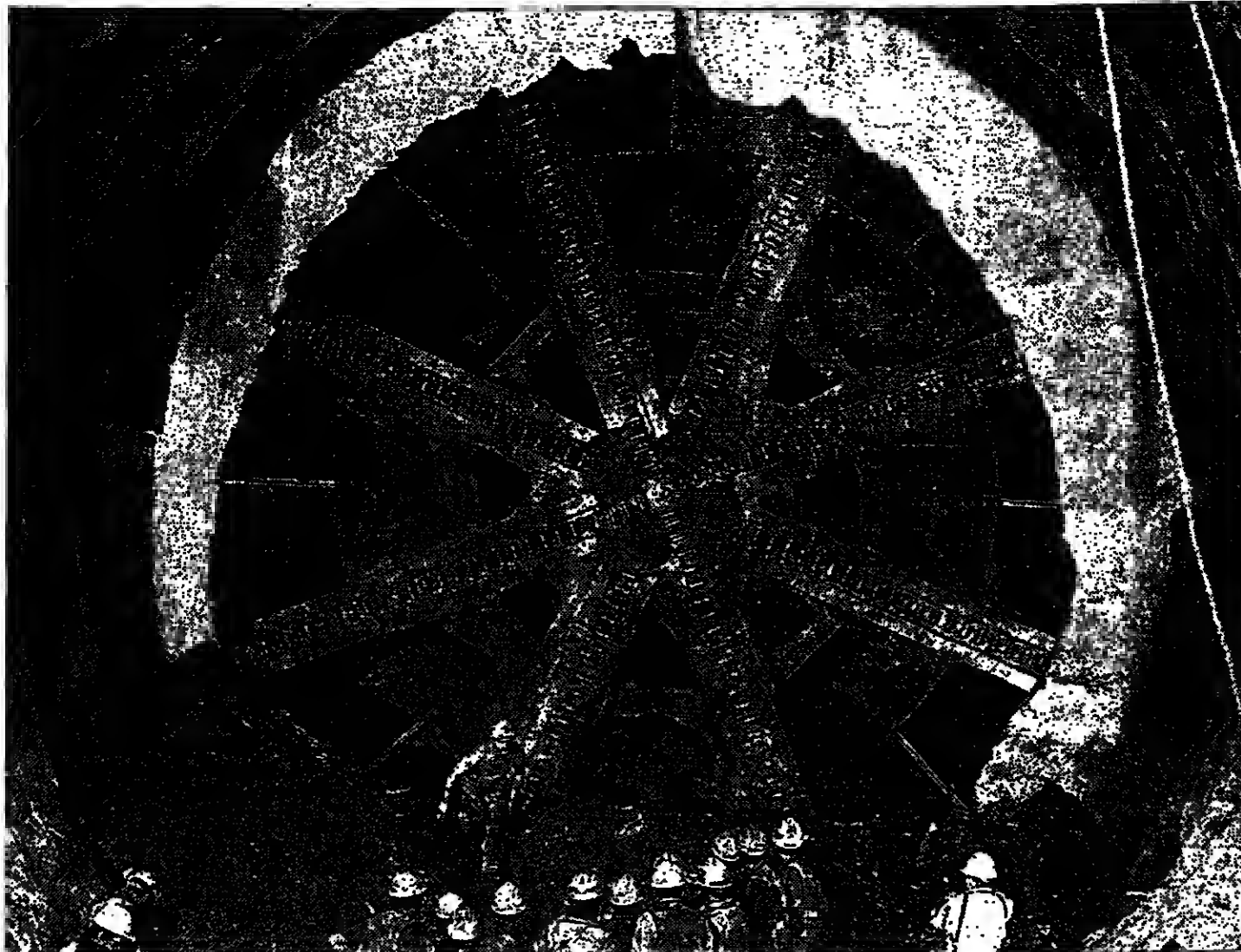
A Police Federation spokesman said: "This is a case where the punishment does not fit the crime. If he is not going to prison then he should have received a heavy fine."

Derek Rutherford, of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, also condemned the decision. He said that a prison term would have helped to protect the public from

Smith for a while, and given him a chance to dry out. "It is time that society stopped colluding with this man in his dependence. He needs a shock, and prison might well have been the answer."

Greville Janner, QC, Labour MP for Leicester West, described the sentence as blinding stupidity. He said: "I would have sent him to prison, not merely because it was necessary in his case, but as a warning to others that drink-drivers are a fearsome menace."

Alcohol Concern, however, emphasised the need for recalcitrant drink-drivers to be encouraged to cure their illness. Eric Appleby, director of the group, said: "This chap is plainly a menace to society, but sticking him in jail is not necessarily going to help." The government should extend the scheme under which drivers found to be more than 250 per cent over the limit or convicted twice for drink-driving within ten years have to be cleared by a doctor before being allowed to have their licence back, he said.



PETER TRIVINOR

Opening time: workers watch another Channel tunnel milestone yesterday as the last of three underground sections between the Kent coast at Dover

and the terminal site near Folkestone breaks through. The £8.5 million boring machine excavated an average of 160 metres a week over the past year and

removed more than 800,000 cubic metres of spoil. It will now be dismantled and either sold or scrapped. The breakthrough, after a year of round-the-clock

tunnelling, was a month ahead of schedule and was described by Mr Colin Kirkland, Eurotunnel technical director, as a "tremendous achievement".

NHS unions seek £20 rise for workers

Health service unions yesterday launched a campaign to achieve a £20 weekly pay rise for 180,000 ancillary workers, who earn as little as £101 for a 39-hour week (Tim Jones writes).

Although most of the kitchen assistants, domestic assistants, cleaners and porters are part-time workers, the average weekly wage for a full-time male ancillary worker is about £175 a week. Despite their pressure on health service negotiators, it is unlikely that the unions will achieve anything near £20 all round.

The campaign is tied to a ten-point hospital "workers' charter" demanding greater health care funding, independent arbitration on disputes and improvements in training and working conditions. Roger Poole, chief negotiator for the National Union of Public Employees, said the government was paying poverty wages.

Leading article, page 15

Drug plea stands

Patricia Cahill, aged 17, of Birmingham, who is accused of attempted heroin trafficking, told the juvenile court in Bangkok yesterday that she would continue to plead not guilty. Her lawyer said she had "agonised" for a week about the plea but would not change it as she had done nothing wrong. Another Birmingham girl, Karen Smith, aged 19, has pleaded guilty to similar charges. The next hearing of the case will be on December 7.

Air bomb detector

Colour x-ray machines which can detect explosives in baggage were not widely available at the time of the Lockerbie bombing, an expert told the enquiry into the air disaster yesterday. Richard Doney, of the Department of Transport, told the Dumfries hearing that the first machine used in the UK was installed at Belfast airport one month before the Pan Am bomb.

Case delayed

The High Court case in which Westminster council seeks to overturn a clause in the lease of an estate from the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estate limiting the occupation of flats to "the working classes" was squeezed out of yesterday's lists at the Royal Courts of Justice by other business. It will now be heard by Mr Justice Harman in the Chancery division, starting today.

Bar's new chief urges reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to the system for selecting judges to identify more women candidates and those from ethnic minorities were called for yesterday by Anthony Scrivener QC, the chairman-elect of the Bar.

Mr Scrivener, aged 55, who takes up the post on January 1, said he had been depressed to hear the Lord Chancellor say that there was a shortage of suitable women for judicial appointment. "In my experience there are a number of extremely able women advocates who would make ideal judges," he said.

He favoured solicitors becoming judges. "There is no reason why a solicitor with proper training cannot be a good judge, going through the usual route of assistant recorder, recorder, crown

court to High Court." His views on the need for reform mean that the Lord Chancellor will face a united front of both branches of the legal profession over the need for a review of the judicial selection system.

Tony Holland, president of the Law Society, has called for such a review and yesterday Mr Scrivener backed a number of his views. Mr Scrivener wants a better system for identifying candidates and a wider system of taking soundings within the Bar.

He said: "There is no point in promoting people before their time; it just damages the group they represent. Quality must remain the predominant criterion. The question is, whether the Lord Chancellor's Department is able

to spot the people with ability. It must be hit and miss."

Mr Scrivener intends, however, to make his top priority for 1991 access to justice and legal aid. "I believe we will have to fight to maintain the principle that a person on legal aid has access to the best barristers, in the same way as those who are well off." He will fight to see that solicitor-advocates are subject to the cab-rank rule, so that they cannot refuse legal aid cases on cost grounds.

Mr Scrivener's biggest impact is likely to be on the Bar's image. Non-Oxbridge, unstuffy, from a family of Kent shopkeepers and educated at a direct-grant school, he says he is typical of the majority of the Bar, who contrary to public image, were non-élite.

Patten seeks agreement on endangered species

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A GLOBAL agreement to save the world's endangered species, which may run into many millions, should be drawn up in the next 18 months, Chris Patten, the environment secretary, said last night. He also announced that Britain would host a seminar to discuss the issue early next year.

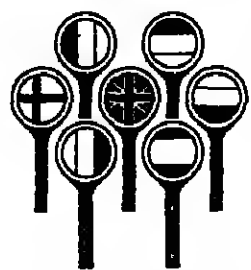
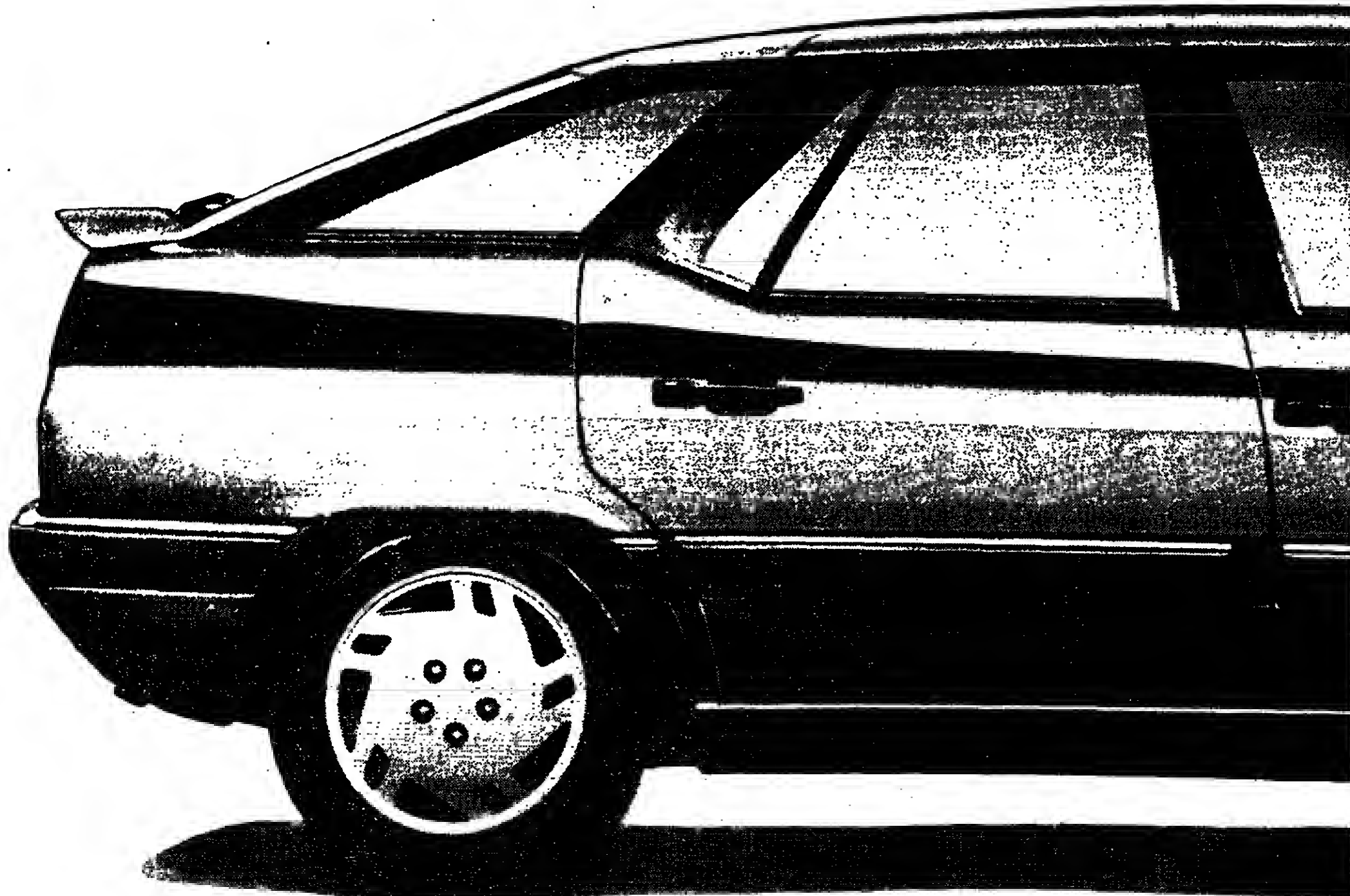
Predictions that up to a third of the world's species of animals, plants and insects may be extinct by 2025 could not be dismissed, Mr Patten said, giving the Natural Environment Research Council's annual lecture in London. "We are squandering this treasure house at a deeply disturbing rate."

It was absurd to pretend that every single species could be saved

out of the total number, estimated at between five million and 50 million, and efforts might be better directed at saving whole ecosystems such as forests.

Mr Patten, who also announced that the British contribution to the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was to go up from £3 million to £4 million next year, said the government wanted to see an agreement on species conservation, or biodiversity, ready for signature by the time of the UN conference on environment and development in Brazil in June 1992. Negotiations begin this week at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

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Europe and poll tax turn loyalists to open rebellion

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MARGARET Thatcher's obduracy to closer European unity and the unpopularity of the poll tax caused the defection of a small band of former loyalists. Two of the most surprising were Edwina Currie and Emma Nicholson, who had both worked closely with the prime minister. They said their decisions to withdraw support were made with regret and they emphasised their admiration for Mrs Thatcher's achievements.

Some non-aligned MPs swung away from Mrs Thatcher after discovering at the weekend that support for her in their constituencies was not as solid as previously reported. They found a common thread running through comments by local activists: respect for what Mrs Thatcher had done and a wish to see her "go gracefully", coupled with a belief that the party needed a new leader before the next general election.

Mrs Currie, the former health minister, admitted on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Week* "I think she (Mrs Thatcher) has been wrong on one or two issues lately." In spite of firm sup-

port from her Derbyshire South constituency association for Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Currie complained that the prime minister had become increasingly hostile to the European Community. She also urged Mrs Thatcher to consider carefully her international reputation before entering a second ballot.

The former minister refused to disclose yesterday whether she had voted for Michael Heseltine or abstained.

Miss Nicholson, MP for Devon West and Torridge and a former vice-chairman of the party, said she had changed her mind slowly over the past year after giving 15 years of loyalty to Mrs Thatcher. She voted for Michael Heseltine.

Although dismayed at the effects of the poll tax on some low-income, modestly housed constituents, she also cited Mrs Thatcher's attitude to the EC for her defection. "Michael Heseltine offers a vision, so does Douglas Hurd," she said. About three-quarters of the constituents she had asked said it was time for a change.

Comments by other defectors indicated the impact of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resigna-

tion speech last week. John Lee, the former tourism minister and MP for Fendle, said: "I have been saddened by the prime minister's apparent image as a reluctant European. With Michael we would be in the vanguard rather than the guard's van." As MP for a marginal northern seat, he said the "political disaster" of the poll tax needed a fundamental overhaul.

The political future of MPs who openly deserted Mrs Thatcher looks bleak. Not only can they expect no favours from their leader but many will also face a hard time in their constituencies.

The group is split into MPs who came out for Michael Heseltine and those who merely suggested it was "time for a change" without revealing their voting intentions. Party managers will need to exercise some care not to conduct too intensive a witchhunt against the "traitors" for fear of building up a constantly rebellious faction on the back benches.

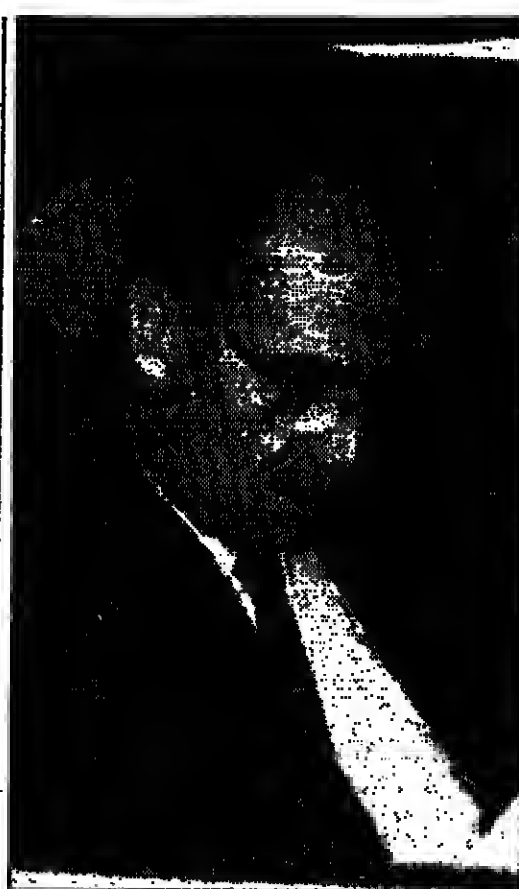
"Heseltinians" with southern and Home Counties constituencies expect a rougher ride from their local activists than colleagues in northern seats, where anti-Thatcher feeling is running stronger. Michael Mates, MP for East Hampshire, Sir Neil Macfarlane, MP for Sutton and Cheam, and Cyril Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath, have upset their constituency workers by opting for the former defence secretary.

Most of the "Heseltinians" have already endured years of being passed over for ministerial office or have been dismissed and so have little or nothing to lose.

Their official leader must be Michael "Colonel" Mates, who helped Willie Whitelaw in the second ballot of his leadership campaign in 1975, and led the Commons rebellion on the poll tax.

The other key political exiles will be Keith Hampson, former parliamentary private secretary to Michael Heseltine, and Tony Nelson, MP for Chichester. Some of the "Thatcher must go" group, such as David Mudd, Sir Dennis Walters and last year's challenger, Sir Anthony Meyer, have announced they do not intend to fight the next election.

Ronald Butt, page 14



In the eye of the storm: Three key figures in the leadership contest arriving at the Palace of Westminster yesterday to cast their votes: (from left), Norman Tebbit, former party chairman, Edward Heath, former prime minister, and Nigel Lawson, former chancellor



Cabinet places at risk if there is a new Tory leader

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL strong Thatcher supporters are unlikely to remain around the cabinet table under any other prime minister.

Michael Heseltine has indicated that he will not undertake major surgery at the top of the government if he becomes leader. After the inevitable divisions caused by the contest, his first task would be to restore party unity. Douglas Hurd and John Major would remain, as Mr Heseltine has a high regard for the chancellor and has suggested that there is little difference on Europe between him and the foreign secretary.

However, MPs suspect that Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, Peter Lilley, trade secretary, and Michael Howard, employment secretary, could be at risk. Chris Patten could be shifted from the environment department after his criticism of Mr Heseltine's pledge to review the poll tax.

Mr Parkinson's long and close association with the prime minister could well put his cabinet place in jeopardy. There is also a feeling that his performance as transport secretary has been uninspiring and that he is nearing the end of his ministerial career.

Even if Mr Lilley remained

in a Heseltine cabinet, Tory MPs believe that he would be moved from the trade and industry department as his robust non-interventionist views contrast strongly with Mr Heseltine's more interventionist approach.

Several MPs would expect Mr Heseltine to invite Sir Geoffrey Howe to return to high office, especially as it was his resignation speech that finally prompted the leadership challenge. The bitterness the speech has caused among some of Mrs Thatcher's supporters could however make Sir Geoffrey's return to office a controversial decision.

Although Michael Mates and Keith Hampson have played important roles in Mr Heseltine's leadership campaign, it is thought unlikely that he would reward them with a seat in the cabinet. Neither has ever held ministerial office and MPs believe Mr Heseltine would offer them only junior ministerial jobs.

One prospect is almost certainly ruled out in the event of Mr Heseltine becoming prime minister - that he would offer a cabinet job to his predecessor, and, given Mrs Thatcher's antipathy towards him, she would probably reject any offer he made to her.

Labour affects disinterest and counts its ammunition

By ROGER WOOD

LABOUR'S public response to the Tory leadership battle has been to affect a lofty disinterest in the outcome.

Behind this is an awareness that Labour's task at the next general election could be made much easier if the fight were against a badly-wounded Mrs Thatcher rather than a new leader who could give the

Conservatives a boost in the opinion polls.

Understandably, there is a feeling of *Schadenfreude* about the situation as Labour officials count the political ammunition handed to them by Michael Heseltine's challenge and look forward to a second round. The official line from Labour, however, is that the Conservatives are now damaged and divided irretrievably and that no leader will be able to heal these divisions.

The splits within the Tory party over such issues as Europe, education and the community charge are clear for all to see, Labour says. "In the months to come, whoever emerges as leader has the divisions hung round their neck with a vengeance," one official said. "Whoever wins will be leading a divided party."

That is why Labour dismisses opinion polls which suggest that, under Mr Heseltine, a Labour lead of 10 per cent could be turned into a Tory lead of 4 per cent, at least in the short term. Under Mr Heseltine, they believe there would be "a few weeks honeymoon" before the divisions emerged again.

"Heseltine could not hold it together for very long before he found the same problems that Mrs Thatcher has had

with her cabinet," the official said. Neil Kinnock shrugs off the leadership contest, and says that the outcome makes no difference to him.

He was quoted earlier this week in *Der Spiegel*, a German newspaper, as saying: "I see two removal vans. One for Mrs Thatcher and one for her successor. I believe that Mrs Thatcher will go in a few weeks, one way or another. But, whoever her successor is, we will win the next election."

Party officials point out that as long ago as last March, after Labour's victory in the Mid Staffordshire by-election, Mr Kinnock was forecasting that he would be facing a new Tory leader at the general election. The Labour leader may, however, be more wary of Mr Heseltine than any other possible replacement for Mrs Thatcher.

On November 7, before he announced his challenge, Mr Heseltine was attacked by Mr Kinnock during a Commons debate, who said: "Those who snipe at the prime minister publicly but then cast around for surrogates and stalking horses deserve much the same disdain, especially when they write a voluminous letter of criticism and then go off to the Middle East."

MPs took this as a clear sign that he feared facing Mr Heseltine as Tory leader.



Neil Kinnock arriving at the Commons yesterday

Time for challengers to show their hand

WOULD-BE challengers have less than 42 hours to show their hand between the close of the first ballot and the start of the next round, as nominations for the second ballot must be given to Cranley Onslow, chairman of the 1922 committee, by noon tomorrow (Sheila Gunn writes).

Nominations for the first vote are now void and new candidates may come forward. The timetable is: Today: Margaret Thatcher returns from Paris at midday from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. She intends to make a Commons statement on the summit at 3.30pm. She is due at Buckingham Palace in the evening for her weekly meeting with the Queen. Tomorrow: Nominations close at noon. Mrs Thatcher

is due to face question time at 3.15pm in the Commons. Tuesday, November 27: MPs will vote in the second ballot in a Commons committee room between 11am and 6pm. A contestant needs a majority: 187 of the 372 MPs who are entitled to vote. Mrs Thatcher again faces Commons question time.

Thursday, November 29: If no winner emerges, the three candidates polling the highest number of votes can go into a third ballot, with MPs listing their first and second choices under a single, transferable system of proportional voting. The candidate polling the lowest number of first preference votes is struck out and the second preference votes are redistributed among the other candidates to decide the winner.

Jamie Dettmer studies the careers of two possible contenders

Hurd: a sense of duty and history

TWO years ago at a convivial lunch in a London flat, Douglas Hurd was closely questioned by a group of journalists about his leadership ambitions. Did he want to be prime minister, he was asked. "Heaven forbid," he replied. A moment elapsed and then the more cautious comment followed: "I don't think so."

He mentioned the constraints of security placed on him already as the then Home Secretary and former Northern Ireland Secretary and suggested that it would be much worse as prime minister. He wanted to add to his seven political novels. He wanted time with his two young children. His denials set uneasily with the rest of his conversation, which showed a politician with a vision and a firm grasp of where the Conservative government should head.

A few weeks later his Toryism was on display in a speech delivered at Tamworth to celebrate the bicentenary of Sir Robert Peel's birth. "I think it was Guizot, the French conservative leader in the time of Peel, who advised his followers, 'Enrichissez-vous, mes enfants.' Peel would never have agreed that the accumulation of private wealth was the final aim of policy, nor does this government. The fruits of economic success could turn sour unless we can bring back greater social cohesion to our country."

He continued: "Social cohesion alongside the creation of wealth through private enterprise: these are the two conditions of our future progress." The speech could be read as a coded and quiet rebuke of the government. Yes, the years of Tory rule had encouraged the accumulation and spread of wealth but had social cohesion fared as well? As befits a man whose grandfather and father were Tory MPs, Mr Hurd has a strong sense of duty and history. Mr Hurd's politics and his approach to problems is enriched by a deep knowledge of other times and other places. In a recent interview in *The Independent*, Mr Hurd

compared his position as foreign secretary entering the post-Cold War world with Castlereagh struggling to help build a new European order after Napoleon. "We have to find a way of creating European structures which don't humiliate Gorbachev. Just as Castlereagh had to do it in a way which didn't humiliate the French," he said.

Educated at Eton, where he was captain of the school, Mr Hurd went on to take a First in History at Trinity College, Cambridge. He won both the presidency of the union and chairmanship of the University's Conservative Association. From there he joined the diplomatic service and for 14 years remained a diplomat, serving in Peking, New York during the Suez Crisis and Rome.

Bored and frustrated, he started writing thrillers. He also wrote dozens of letters to possible employers, including one to Edward Heath who took him up. He eventually went to Downing Street as Mr Heath's political secretary.

It was his close connection with Mr Heath that proved a liability for Mr Hurd in the early Thatcher years. Prohibition was hard to come by. Once up the ladder he increasingly became a central figure in the government - first at Northern Ireland where he began the difficult negotiations with Dublin that led to the Anglo-Irish agreement, then at the Home Office.



Hurd: promotion was hard to come by

Major: truly a self-made man

ONE of John Major's regrets is that he failed when he was housing chairman at Lambeth borough council to secure the demolition of the house he and his parents were reduced to live in after his father's business failed.

Mr Major does not come from thetoff's wing of the Conservative party. The Chancellor's father, Abraham Thomas Ball, alias Tom Major of the vaudeville double-act Drum and Major, was a versatile music-hall performer. Late in life, Tom Major left the stage and set up as a sculptor and manufacturer of garden gnomes. A failed investment forced the Majors to swap their home in suburban Worcester Park, southwest London, for a two-room flat in run-down Brixton.

Mr Major is living proof that the Conservative party has changed in the last decade or so. He is truly a self-made man, who left school at 16, worked as a labourer, went on the dole, got a job at the Electricity Board before progressing in Standard Chartered Bank. His escape from poverty came from his own exertions and determination.

With his background, it could be considered odd that he did not join the Wilsonian Labour party. Was he ever attracted to the Left? "Never for a second," he told one interviewer. "From a very precocious age, that always seemed to me to be the way



Major: living proof that Tories have changed

you stayed in difficulties, not the way you escaped from difficulties. The Labour party did not open avenues of opportunity. What they said was, 'we will provide you with a minimum but we will not help you and others like you to move out of your circumstances into better and much freer circumstances.'

At Standard Chartered Bank he became the personal assistant to Anthony Barber, the former Tory Chancellor. After two attempts to win St Pancras North for the Tories, he was eventually elected at Huntingdon in 1979. His rise in the Tory ranks has been meteoric with eight government jobs in as many years.

He shone as a chief secretary to the Treasury and it was while he was there that it became clear that Mrs Thatcher had marked him out for high office of state. His few months as foreign secretary were not happy. It was an unexpected appointment. Mrs Thatcher had intended him for the chancellorship. In Kuala Lumpur, at the Commonwealth Conference, Mr Major was contradicted by Downing Street.

His handling of the prime minister has been sure-footed since then. He and Douglas Hurd managed to persuade Mrs Thatcher of the virtues of joining the exchange-rate mechanism. His performances in the Commons on economic matters have been adept. Tory MPs clearly believe that if anyone can swing the economy round, it is Mr Major.

But there are doubts as to whether he would make a good party leader and prime minister. Friends say that he is dry on the economy and soft on social issues. The formula is hardly brave and is certainly not visionary. Asked where he stood within the party by an interviewer last year, he said: "I myself would resist labelling. I am a free-marketier; I could never accept the politics of soft options, because soft options are always bogus options - but beyond that, I believe in treating issues on their merits."

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Universities try to allay deficit fears

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY vice-chancellors tried yesterday to allay fears of financial difficulties following the declaration of a £4 million deficit at Bristol. Three universities in the past month have now frozen posts to try to balance their books.

The Universities Funding Council is meeting today to assess a budget for 1991-2 that falls short of the £153 million the vice-chancellors say is needed to meet current expansion plans. Although Bristol's plight does not appear on the council's agenda, it may influence debate on a mechanism to replace the council's abandoned bidding system.

The decision by Sir John Kingman, Bristol's vice-chancellor, to freeze all new appointments and recall orders for new equipment wherever possible, has shocked colleagues. Most insisted that deficits had been wiped out or were under control.

Liverpool university, which imposed a "managed moratorium" on new appointments two weeks ago, will announce a deficit of more than £500,000 on Friday. A spokesman said, however, that the figure was close to the bud-

geted loss for the year. The freeze, which is to last until April, was said to be a precautionary measure.

At Edinburgh university similar action is being taken to control a £3 million deficit. Bristol blamed unusually early completion of some large orders for part of its deficit, but said that there was an underlying problem that had led to six successive deficits. Annual increases of 15 per cent in industrial funding and growing contributions from alumni had failed to cope with the costs of research.

Don Carleton, the university's information officer, said: "This is one of the leading research universities, and we want to stay in the top division of international research, but if we cannot replace people there will be a gradual erosion of that." He added that teaching would not suffer and there was no intention to introduce top-up fees.

Most other universities outside London expect to break even in the current academic year. Only Newcastle, of a dozen universities contacted yesterday, is projecting a deficit.



Awaiting a new life: Marchel (front) who was found abandoned in a train

Inflexible rules keeping a new family divided

A BRITISH couple who adopted two Romanian children five months ago have been told by government officials that they cannot bring them into the country.

The health department has rejected Jean and Patrick Luff as prospective adoptive parents on the advice of Bexley borough council, in spite of the council's having reversed its decision and now recommending that the couple are acceptable.

Faced with complex procedures for adopting children from overseas, a number of prospective parents have chosen to smuggle their children in without the required documents. None has yet been sent back or placed into care.

The case has implications for a number of other couples in similar circumstances, and illustrates the problems with the rules on inter-country adoption which Virginia Bottomley, health minister, has promised to review by the end of the year.

Mrs Luff, aged 37, says that on one hand she has been told that the decision is final and on the other that her case is still being consid-

A couple's fight to bring two Romanian children to Britain holds warnings for other hopeful adopters
Lin Jenkins reports

ered. "Meanwhile our children are stuck in Romania in far from acceptable conditions," she said.

"The youngest is in hospital with pneumonia and we are terribly worried. The rules are there to safeguard the children, but at the moment our children have nothing. It is not possible to argue that it is not in their best interests to be allowed into Britain."

The couple from Sidcup, Kent, who cannot have children of their own, adopted the youngsters in June. Marchel, aged three, was found abandoned on a train, and Florin, nearly two, was put in an orphanage at birth by her unmarried mother. Like many other British couples, their only hope of parenthood is adoption from overseas because the limited number of babies available.

They were accepted in Romania as prospective par-

ents on the basis of a home study compiled by a private social worker. The government guidelines recommend that the study, into the suitability of the couple as adoptive parents, is done by the local authority.

On their return home, Bexley conducted its own study and the report, along with medical and police reports on the couple, was sent to the health department with the recommendation that the couple not adopt the children because Mr Luff, aged 53, had undergone heart surgery.

The department turned them down and Bexley referred the case to its own adoption panel, which recommended that the Luffs be allowed to bring the children in.

The health department said: "The decision has been taken and there is no form of appeal even if the local authority does a somersault. They initially rejected Mr Luff on health grounds."

Bexley, however, says no final decision has been taken. Nick Johnson, director of social services, said the department was aware of the difficulty being experienced by the children.

Attack on science spending

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE pressure group Save British Science is to launch a new attack on government spending on science at its annual general meeting in London tonight.

The group will publish a new report, *British science: benchmarks for the year 2000*, to try to maintain the pressure which has embarrassed ministers and forced the government to keep secret the recommendations made by its scientific advisers.

Alan Howarth the minister responsible for higher education and science, will debate its conclusions with Jeremy Bray, the shadow science minister, and Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat spokesman. There will be little in the report to please Mr Howarth, for Save British Science does not accept government claims that it has maintained the proportion of national wealth spent on research.

A study published earlier this year by research workers at the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex university and the university of Edinburgh showed that Britain was spending almost £400 million a year less on basic research than either France or Germany. Harry Atkinson of the Science and Engineering Research Council reached similar conclusions. He showed that total spending on research and development in Britain, at £9.7 billion, was only about three quarters that of France (£12.8 billion) and half that of Germany (£19 billion).

The government's difficulties in countering arguments of this sort is that they are supported by virtually all scientists in Britain, including many who advise the government on science spending. This year, for the first time, the advice given by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils has not been published, making it impossible to compare the figures in the chancellor's autumn statement. The change was made because the government felt that the advice, which had been critical of spending cuts, was being used to bring extra pressure on it.

Ancient peatbog to be saved

One of Britain's few remaining lowland bogs, Chat Moss on the borders of Salford and Wigan, is to be preserved in a joint conservation venture by local councils, Greater Manchester Countryside Unit said yesterday.

Chat Moss, which once covered a vast area of south Lancashire, is the home of a rich variety of wildlife. Years of draining and peat-cutting have almost destroyed the moss, but it is hoped to reduce peat extraction and encourage mossland plants to return.

£620,000 award

Paul Moore, aged ten, who is profoundly physically and mentally handicapped as the result of negligence during his birth at St John's Hospital, Chelmsford, was awarded agreed damages of £620,000 at the High Court yesterday against Mid Essex health authority.

Bodies found

Piles of bodies have been unearthed by workmen clearing toxic waste from a building site at Chatham dockyard, Kent. They are thought to have been prisoners who died in captivity during the Napoleonic wars and they may be returned to France.

Attacker jailed

William McPhillip, of Nottingham, a former heroin addict who stabbed a woman 229 times and then raped her daughter aged 13, while high on drugs, was jailed for life for murder and ten years for rape yesterday.

Cruelty to spider

Liam Conway, of Erdington, who left a 4.4 diameter hairy zebra tarantula spider without food and water for at least nine days was fined £50 at Birmingham yesterday.

Chess hopes

With a 4-0 whitewash of Bahrain in round 2 and a 3-1 victory against Greece in round 3 England are back into contention for the medals at the 29th Chess Olympics at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. In the Women's Olympics Susan Arkell, the English top board, won in 61 moves against the Yugoslav top board, Alisa Maric, one of the world's highest rated women players.



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Vicar 'seduced second parishioner after ten-year affair faded'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A COUNTRY vicar had a ten-year affair with one of his married parishioners and when that liaison began to fade he seduced another member of his congregation who sought his help, a Church of England consistory court in Winchester was told yesterday.

The Rev Tom Tyler, vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, since 1978, told one of his lovers that he wanted to wrap her in "a blanket of love", it was alleged. When confronted by the other woman's husband the vicar said: "I cannot repeat what I do not regret," the hearing was told.

Mr Tyler, aged 50, married with four children, denies five specimen charges alleging that he committed adultery with the two women between September 1987 and October last year.

They form an indictment used only once before by the Church of England, alleging that by committing adultery "with a woman within his cure of souls" he is guilty of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders. The verdict will be decided by a panel of two clerics and two lay members of the Winchester diocese.

At the start of yesterday's hearing the chancellor of the diocese, Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, who is presiding over the case, invoked powers under the 1963 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure, closing the court to press and public for all the witnesses' evidence.

He said it would concern adultery and matters involving

confidential relationships. Witnesses would be asked about "intimate and potentially highly embarrassing matters".

He said he was making the ruling in the interests of justice and referred to the 1926 Judicial Proceedings, Regulations and Reports Act which made it an offence to publish evidence "likely to injure public morals".

Opening the case against Mr Tyler in open court, Nicholas Atkinson, a barrister acting for the Bishop of Winchester, said that "conduct unbecoming" was undefined in church statutes, but it related to the canons which control the way clergy order their lives, "and they proscribe immoral conduct". If the vicar had committed adultery he would be guilty of conduct unbecoming.

Mr Atkinson, who wore gown and wig for the hearing in a church hall, said that the charges involved Mrs Susan Whitmore, the wife of a Henfield fruit grower, and Mrs Barbara Edwards, a mother of two, aged in her thirties.

In the late 1980s Mrs Edwards's younger child died of cot death syndrome. The village organised a holiday in Spain for the family, but on the trip her other child had to be admitted to hospital with convulsions and when they returned home her husband was taken ill.

"She turned to the church for support because she had difficulty in discussing her innermost feelings even with her husband," Mr Atkinson said. She attended bible study classes and Mr Tyler visited her at her home in Upper Station

Road, Henfield, with increasing regularity.

His comforting of her became more intimate. He held her hand and put an arm around her. On at least half a dozen occasions he kissed her on the lips, Mr Atkinson said.

Incidents of sexual familiarity became more regular and Mr Tyler told her he wanted to wrap her in a blanket of love.

They first had sexual intercourse in 1988, Mr Atkinson said. Afterwards the vicar said he was sorry but he had wanted to show her how much he loved her. She said she felt guilty, but the relationship continued.

On one occasion at her house they had just closed the living room curtains when her husband came home unexpectedly and accused them of having an affair.

Mr Atkinson said that the affair with Mrs Whitmore, a woman in her fifties, began soon after Mr Tyler moved into the parish. She was a regular churchgoer and her husband was ordained five years ago. He is now a curate in the parish on an unpaid basis.

The affair began shortly before Christmas 1978 after a choir practise at the church when Mr Tyler gave Mrs Whitmore an affectionate kiss on the lips. He said: "That is not just Christmas spirit."

It developed rapidly and intercourse took place at several locations, including the vicarage, Mrs Whitmore's home and the back of the vicar's estate car. But in August 1988 she began to suspect that he was seeing someone else



The Rev Tom Tyler in the garden of his home in Henfield. He denies charges of adultery with two women

and the affair cooled.

The following summer she told her husband and he confronted the vicar. Mr Tyler responded by saying "I cannot repeat what I do not regret." She then made a formal complaint to the bishop which resulted in yesterday's charges. At the conclusion of Mr

Atkinson's 20-minute opening speech the court went into camera where it is likely to remain for the three weeks the hearing is expected to last.

It reopened the public when counsel make closing speeches to the assessors and the chancellor sums up the evidence.

Study into link between crime and TV violence

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SEX offenders, violent criminals and schizophrenic convicts are to be questioned in a two-year investigation designed to find out whether there is a causal link between television violence and aggressive or criminal behaviour.

The £80,000 project, commissioned by the Broadcasting Standards Council, is the first in-depth British study to discern the role of television in creating fantasies in some viewers' minds that might lead to violent crime. Researchers from Aston university's communications department, in conjunction with Dudley health authority, will also interview "ordinary" people.

Respondents will be tested for physiological arousal when viewing films and violent television series. Other methodologies will include "fantasy scripts" spoken or written by offenders, reports of viewing history, free-recall of aggressive fantasies, trigger images and contextualised violence and interviews with offenders who say they have been influenced by television.

The project, which begins next month, was announced yesterday by the council, which becomes the statutory watchdog for standards of taste and decency on radio and television from January 1.

The broadcasting council has also published a research document on sex role stereotyping in television commercials. A detailed content analysis of 476 peak-time commercials on ITV showed that, while there is less evidence of sexual stereotyping than has been claimed by feminists, the patterns emerging from the study lend strong support to the concern that women exist in what is essentially a man's world.

The study found that women still occupy a far more decorative role in commercials than men. Women in advertisements for all product types were more likely to be young and attractive. Sixty-four per cent of all women used in commercials were deemed to be attractive enough to model in a fashion magazine, compared to just 22 per cent of the men.

Men also outnumbered women in advertisements by nearly two-to-one and male voice-overs were used in 89 per cent of commercials. Occupations, when given or implied in commercials, showed that men were more than twice as likely to be represented in some

kind of paid employment. Contrary to criticism that women are too often portrayed as housewives, however, the study found that housework was the dominant activity of only 7 per cent of women and the secondary task of another 16 per cent. Attempts to portray men doing traditionally "feminine" tasks such as cooking or cleaning tended to backfire. Men were seen cooking only for friends, whereas cooking for the family is still left to women.

A separate research document on children's perception of television programmes found that all of the 55 children aged six to nine interviewed at a Leeds primary school had an incomplete understanding of the motives of characters. The children often did not remember or understand essential plot elements.

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Pressure on satellite TV stake

THE Home Office is to come under pressure from the shadow Independent Television Commission to force News International to reduce its stake in the merged British Sky Broadcasting from 50 per cent to 20 per cent (Melinda Wittstock writes).

The commission wants the Home Office to apply the same non-European Community and cross-media ownership restrictions that relate to domestic satellite licences to BSkyB, which is categorised as non-domestic as it transmits via the Astra satellite based in Luxembourg.

Labour politicians and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) have lobbied unsuccessfully for two years to bring Sky under the same restrictions. The commission is to ask the Home Office to delay secondary legislation outlining ownership provisions so the position of News International can be considered.

Bob Phillis, group managing director of Cartoo Communications, will take over from Sir David Nicholas as chief executive of ITN in February. Sir David will continue as ITN chairman.

Antelope's death raises new mad cow disease fears

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE death of Karla, a popular antelope calf at London Zoo, has aroused fears that mad cow disease may be spread from mother to offspring with worrying implications for cattle and the human food chain.

If scientists confirm these fears, many more cattle could have the disease than the agriculture ministry had thought, although there is still no direct evidence that cattle can pass the disease from one generation to the next.

Karla died on November 12

after showing the nervous and debilitating symptoms associated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) only 15 months after her mother died from the disease.

Scientists at the British Veterinary Association's laboratories in Weybridge, Surrey are examining brain tissue from the 18-month-old calf amid growing suspicion that the case will be the first to confirm direct "vertical transmission" of the disease in ungulate or hoofed animals. Although scientists know that scrapie, the form of the disease in sheep, may be passed between generations there has been no evidence of maternal transmission in other species.

The agriculture ministry is anxiously awaiting the results of the tests on Karla, which are expected within the next two weeks, and might decide to take more stringent precautions to ensure the disease does not pass into the human food chain. These could include culling in the female line.

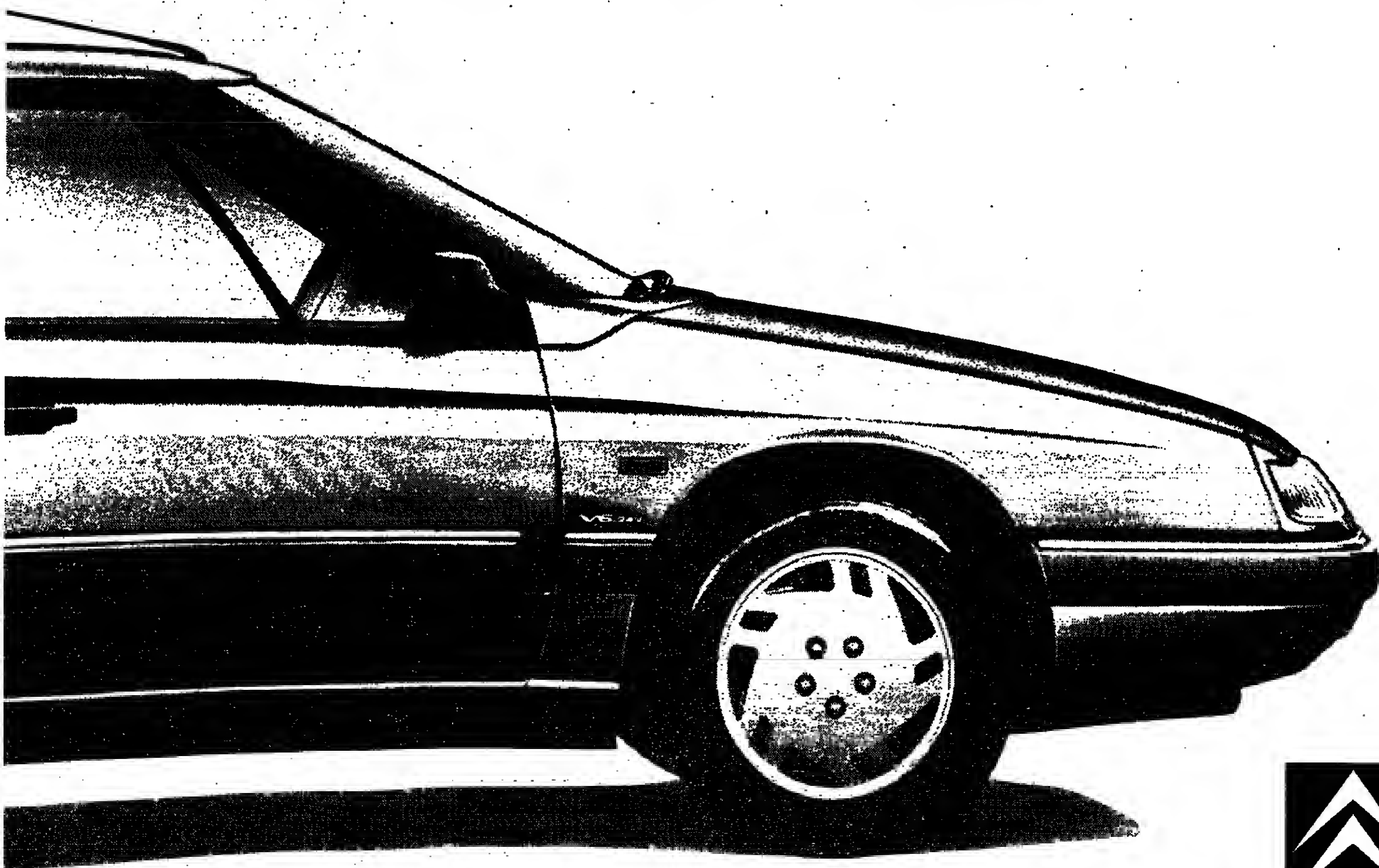
More than 12,000 cattle suspected of contracting BSE have been slaughtered in the past 12 months and double that number are expected to be killed next year. The figure could increase dramatically, however, if the worst suspicions about Karla are confirmed.

Her mother, a fine example of the large white-striped, spiral-horned antelope of genus *strepsoceros*, died in August 1989. A pathology report said that if vertical transmission could occur there were likely to be "far-reaching consequences for the movement of animals between

zoos and the introduction of captive-bred animals into the wild". It is known that if Karla had BSE she could not have caught it from bone-meat, which is believed to have been the source of her mother's infection. In 1988 the government banned the feeding of ruminant remains to other ruminants in an attempt to cut off this source of infection.

London Zoo confirmed that histopathological tests are being carried out on Karla to find out whether the disease was passed through the placenta.

THE YEAR. NOW WITH 24 VALVES.



Modify Ulster claim, Fine Gael chief says

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE new leader of the Irish Republic's main opposition party called yesterday for articles 2 and 3 of the constitution to be modified.

John Bruton, who was appointed leader of Fine Gael yesterday after the resignation last week of Alan Dukes, said that articles 2 and 3, which claim Northern Ireland as part of the national territory, must recognise that the prior consent of a majority in Northern Ireland should be required before the claim could be exercised.

"That principle is enshrined in the Anglo-Irish agreement and in the 1975 Helsinki accord", Mr Bruton said. "The Irish people should be asked to write that principle into articles 2 and 3 of our constitution."

Mr Bruton's remarks, which develop the position under Mr Dukes who was also committed to modification of the articles, will be welcomed by Unionists who regard that part of the constitution as a standing affront to the United Kingdom's sovereignty in Northern Ireland. Unionist leaders have called for the abolition of the articles as a pre-condition to agreement on

any new political structures in Northern Ireland.

Mr Bruton, who also called on the constitutional parties in Ulster to enter talks under the Brooke initiative, takes the helm at Fine Gael after two consecutive general election defeats, a disastrous performance in the recent presidential election, and a general perception that the party has lost its way.

Fine Gael has 55 seats in the 166-seat Dail, but recent opinion polls puts support for it at 26 per cent. If the party is to form a government, that would have to rise to at least 47 per cent.

Mr Bruton, aged 43, who is married with a son and three daughters, is a farmer and lawyer and regarded as on the right wing of the broadly centre-right party. He has previously served as finance minister and minister for industry in coalition administrations under Garret FitzGerald. He was first elected MP for Co Meath in 1969 at the age of 21.

Mr Dukes resigned last week when the party's presidential election candidate, Austin Currie, received only 17 per cent of the vote.



Waddington: wants parents to be more responsible

Bill will bring cut in jail population, Waddington insists

THE Criminal Justice bill will lead to a reduction in the prison population, David Waddington, the home secretary, told MPs yesterday during its second reading in the Commons.

Mr Waddington made clear that the legislation was not an exercise in getting rid of prison overcrowding regardless of the protection of the public.

However, he said that its new sentencing framework should lead to a reduction of 1,500 prisoners and changes in the parole system should lead to a further reduction of 500.

He said: "The aim of the proposals is to deal with offenders and stop crime more effectively. We expect them to lead to a fall in the use of imprisonment and therefore to a fall in the prison population. This is obviously to be welcomed and I expect it to happen — though the numbers involved are in the nature of things difficult to estimate."

"But I do not want there to be any misunderstanding. This is certainly not a measure designed to achieve some artificial, short-term reduction

The main points of the bill are: a more coherent sentencing framework; a broader range of community penalties; "unit fines"; penalties for parents who wilfully fail to control delinquent children; contracting out court escort duties; reducing the maximum penalty for theft from ten to seven years and for non-domestic burglary from fourteen to ten years

in prison numbers at the expense of the protection of the public."

The debate was marked by a call from Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, for a provision to outlaw bias in the courts against Asian and black British people.

Mr Hattersley also pressed for a sentencing council to review the general sentencing policy of the courts and to give advice, and for a rule under which defendants must be brought to trial within 112 days of committal.

Mr Waddington said that the bill reformed the parole system so that those in cus-

tody would generally spend a greater proportion of their sentence in custody and would be supervised on release.

He called for consistency of sentencing, but told MPs that he had resisted imposing "detailed and rigid" sentencing rules upon the courts. A custodial sentence was to be passed only if the offence was so serious that a custodial sentence could be justified.

The bill also allowed the admission in court of video interviews with children and video link for cross examination. That would ensure "that those who abuse children will not be able to hide behind the difficulties which their victims now face in going to court", he said.

During his speech, Mr Waddington gave his support to the electronic tagging of people remanded on bail. He said that pilot schemes had demonstrated the feasibility of electronic monitoring. He added: "It completely baffles me why the press keep insisting that the defying of conditions of bail in some of these cases proves that monitoring does not work."

"If the authorities knew, as they did, that the conditions were not observed, the monitoring was highly successful."

The bill also places a duty on courts to require parents to attend hearings involving their children. It extends the powers of the court to bind over the parents of offenders to exercise proper control.

Mr Hattersley said that in many ways crime was increased by sending to prison people who should not be there. Labour shared the government view that some crimes, particularly the violent and sexual, should result in prison sentences, and supported the principle that many other crimes should not carry custodial sentences.

There was inconsistency in the bill and that resulted in confusions and contradictions, as well as an absolute failure to introduce procedures that would ensure successful application of the principle that the government aimed to support, of sentences being related to the offence.

The keystone of the bill was that custodial sentences should be imposed only when the crime was too serious to justify anything less. Unfortunately no attempt was made to define "serious". Ambivalence produced confusion that could result only in the supposed intention of an appropriate sentence for an appropriate crime being frustrated.



Students in polys up by 10.6%

A sharp rise in the number of polytechnic students was welcomed yesterday by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Figures show that there has been an increase of 20,000, or 10.6 per cent, in the number of full-time and sandwich-course students in polytechnics compared with last year and a 3.6 per cent increase in the number of part-time students.

Mr Clarke said that government policy was aimed at ensuring that an even higher proportion of young people should get good quality education.

Scots vote

Alex Salmond, Scottish National MP for Banff and Buchan, has reacted to the prime minister's suggestion that there could be a referendum on European monetary union by tableting a motion demanding a referendum on Scottish independence.

Overseas vote

Government departments are spending about £425,000 in overseas publicity on the new provisions giving votes to British citizens living overseas. Angela Rumbold, home office minister, said in a written reply.

Nuclear test

Britain carried out an underground nuclear test at the American test site in Nevada last Wednesday, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said in a written reply.

Brooke's pps

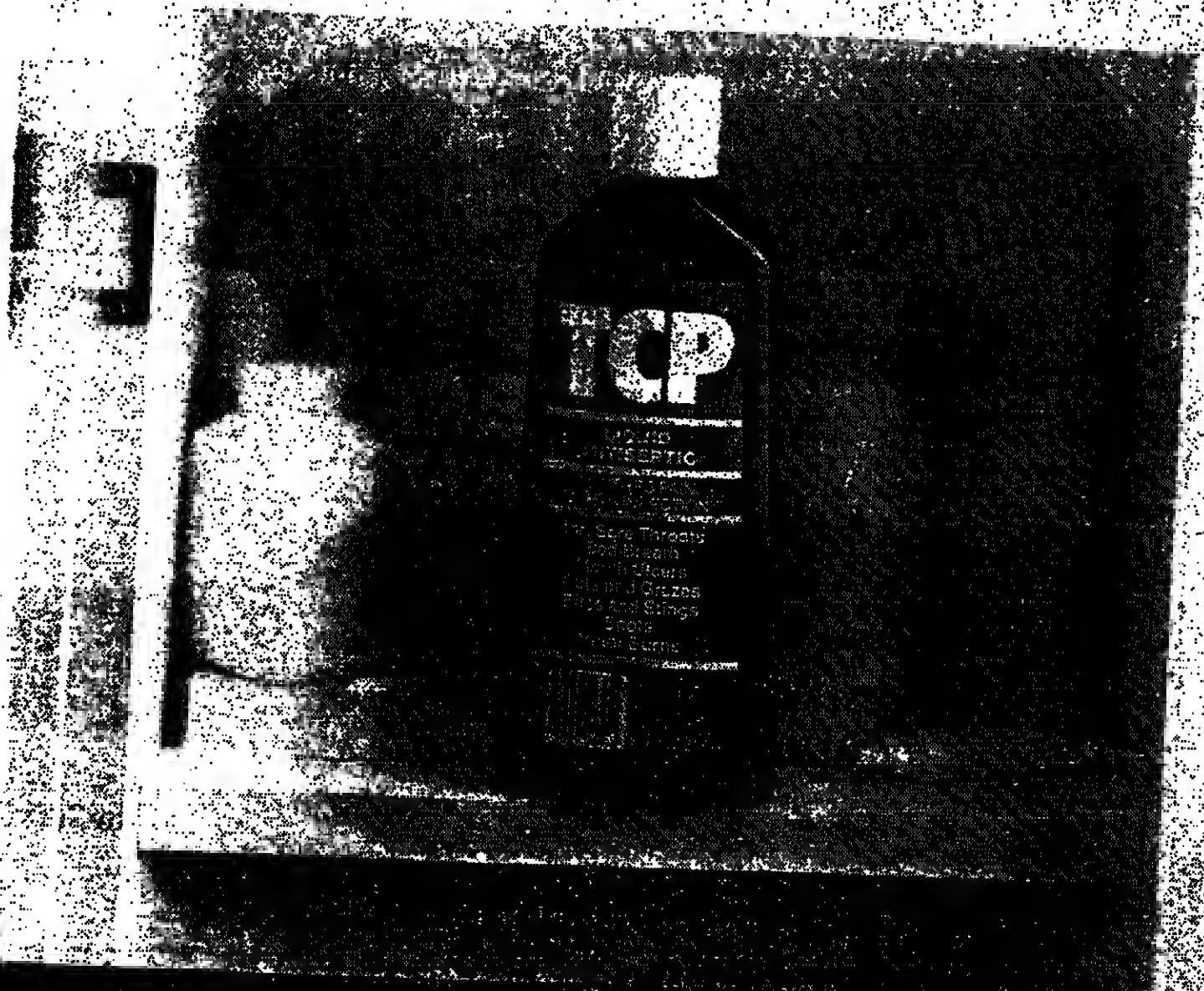


Kenneth Hind (above), MP for Lancashire West, has been appointed parliamentary private secretary to Peter Brooke. Northern Ireland secretary, Mr Hind replaces Peter Bottomley, who has resigned the post.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debates on opposition motions on Scotland and on the textile industry. Lords (2.30): Debate on education.

CABINET LEADER LICKS WOUNDS.



Tories 'proving they are unfit'

By JOHN WINDER

LABOUR jibes about the state of the Conservative party were turned aside in the Commons yesterday by John MacGregor, leader of the House, who said the party was on course for a fourth general election victory.

Mr MacGregor was standing in for prime minister's questions while Margaret Thatcher attended the Paris conference on European security and co-operation.

Thomas McAvooy, Labour MP for Glasgow, Rutherglen, said that the Conservative Party was split from top to bottom in an orgy of bitterness, animosity and hatred. "They are proving that they are unfit to govern."

Mrs Thatcher had a new-found enthusiasm for referendums, but should call the only one that mattered, a general election, to give the people the opportunity to elect a Labour prime minister.

Mr MacGregor said that in

the Queen's speech debate the government had had a majority of 108 on its programme for the session. When the election came and focused attention on Labour policies, the Conservatives would have a very considerable victory.

Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Opposition, asked for a statement on the "general climbdown" on city technology colleges, but Mr MacGregor replied that there was no climbdown. There was a clear programme of 15 colleges, announced and in preparation.

He told David Ashby, Conservative MP for Leicestershire NW, that not the least of Mrs Thatcher's achievements had been that the Opposition had changed so many of its own policies on Europe, the economy, and in so many other respects, since 1983. That was a clear indication of the success the government had achieved.

Curious members

WHEN it comes to asking questions, Labour and Plaid Cymru MPs come out top, according to a table released yesterday by John MacGregor, leader of the Commons (Sheila Gunn writes).

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, tabled the highest number of written questions to ministers last session, 820 in total, easily beating Labour's energy spokesman, Frank Dobson,

who put down 705. In third and fifth places came the Plaid Cymru MPs, Dafydd Elis Thomas and Dafydd Wigley.

The highest scoring Conservative MP is Teresa Gorman (Billerica), who tabled 316 questions and the top Liberal Democrat was Simon Hughes, with 440.

Scoring high in the table is a dubious honour because of the high cost involved in answering the questions.

A TIMELY REMINDER THAT TCP SOOTHES THE ODD INJURY SUFFERED IN THE HOUSE.

Competition to design new museum for Scotland

By KERRY GILL

AN INTERNATIONAL competition was launched yesterday to design the new Museum of Scotland. It is expected to cost more than £25 million and to be the most significant building financed by the government since the second world war.

The Prince of Wales has agreed to become president of a patrons' committee charged with raising money to enhance the quality of the building and its exhibitions. Dr Robert Anderson, director of the National Museums of Scotland, said the museum could be opened by 1996.

Plans for the museum, which will be on a site in the centre of Edinburgh, have been criticised as too small. Critics say it will be on a cramped site and be little more than an extension of the Royal Museum of Scotland next door.

The winning design will be chosen by a committee of judges including some of the world's best known architects. The Marquess of Bute, chairman of the National Museums of Scotland trustees, said: "The new museum will be one of the most important cultural building projects undertaken in the United Kingdom in recent years."

"It will provide the architect with an opportunity to contribute a significant building to the historic city of Edinburgh. The building must be of the highest quality, something of remark and excellence, which will at last provide a suitable setting for our unequalled collections of Scottish material."

The competition will be held in two stages. John Spence, president of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, said anonymous submissions would be invited from architects throughout the world by next April. Up to 20 designs would be selected the following month and a short list of eight entrants would be asked to submit more detailed schemes, which would include technical details and cost.

Mr Spence said information on the site will be given to the entrants and the style of the interior and exterior left to



Dr Anderson: museum could be open by 1996

them. Although the government has promised up to £25 million at last year's prices, the private money raised will provide an even larger budget.

A new Scottish museum was first proposed in the Williams report on the national museums of Scotland in 1981. It suggested two museums, one in Edinburgh and another in Glasgow, concentrating on the country's industrial heritage.

Julian Spalding, director of Glasgow Art Galleries, believes the proposed museum is on too small a site. He told the Royal Scottish Academy that it should be large enough to contain industrial and social history. Mr Spalding said the museum's size would mean it could concentrate only on highly significant artefacts.

"A Museum of Scotland that is only in part a museum of Scotland immediately has an identity problem. It raises expectations it cannot fulfil. As it is proposed, the new museum is not a Museum of Scotland but an extension of the Royal Museum, for the better showing of its Scottish collections."

"A Museum of Scotland is an ambitious and exciting concept. If we want one, we should do justice to the subject. If we don't want one, let's drop the pretence, abandon the grand name and admit that the Royal Museum is just being extended to improve its own Scottish displays."

Richard Morrison, page 14



Buyer wanted: the early Renaissance frontage of the Grade I-listed Hill Hall, near Epping, which was ravaged by fire 21 years ago

Battered Elizabethan gem seeks loving care

By JOHN YOUNG

HILL Hall, near Epping, which was gutted by fire 21 years ago, stands guarded by a 20-stone former member of the Black Watch and nine fierce dogs, its boarded-up windows staring sightlessly over the Essex countryside.

The house, listed Grade I, was built between 1569 and 1575 by Sir Thomas Smith and Richard Kirkby, and is regarded as an internationally important example of early English Renaissance architecture, with four

wings surrounding an open courtyard. Two of the otherwise desolate upstairs rooms contain the only surviving examples of Elizabethan decorative wall paintings, thought to date from about 1576.

It is probably the grandest of some 150 neglected buildings in need of loving care and attention, which are described and illustrated in *Nobody's Home*, a booklet published by the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage.

During the last war the house was requisitioned by the government and

handed over to the Home Office, which used it as a rural extension of Holloway prison. The house and grounds are now in the care of English Heritage, which carried out consolidation work a few years ago with a view to opening it to the public as an ancient monument.

As a ruin, however, it was thought to possess little interest and it was decided to seek a buyer prepared to restore it at an estimated cost of £4-£5 million. Further damage, though not to the house itself, has been inflicted by the M25 which carves a

great swathe through the park designed by Humphry Repton. English Heritage feels, however, that its proximity to the M25, M11 and London may prove an attraction.

Three years ago a sale fell through but negotiations are now under way with another potential buyer. English Heritage said it was prepared to offer a long lease, probably of 125 years, but restoration work would have to be approved in detail, and only certain uses would be allowed. Conversion to offices or a hotel would probably be acceptable.

Hillsborough case relatives warned

RELATIVES of the Hillsborough football disaster victims who try to pre-empt the inquest verdict in newspaper interviews could be in contempt of court, the coroner warned yesterday.

Dr Stefan Popper, coroner at the Sheffield hearing, advised the relatives against trying to influence the jury's verdict and said that the press had a duty to treat the inquest as any other court of law.

On the second day of the inquest on the 93 victims of the 1989 disaster, Dr Popper said that he was unhappy about interviews in a newspaper article yesterday. "It is wrong that a paper and the people who give interviews should attempt to pre-empt your decision," he told the jury. "The only thing that matters as far as your verdict is concerned is what happens in this court."

Dr Popper told relatives of the victims: "If you give interviews on what you think has happened or should hap-

pen, not only do you put yourself at risk of being in contempt, you also put your case at risk because it may not be possible to obtain a true verdict." He said to the press: "I do not want you to misuse your privileges just because this is a coroner's court. You have responsibility as well as a duty."

Video film was played showing the build-up to the disaster and the scenes of Liverpool fans being crushed on the terraces. Dr Popper warned relatives in court that they could find the film upsetting. The two-hour film was a compilation from tapes made by police, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and BBC television.

Some of the relatives were visibly upset as they watched the film and a number left the court. Later film showed supporters struggling to free themselves from piles of bodies.

The hearing continues today.

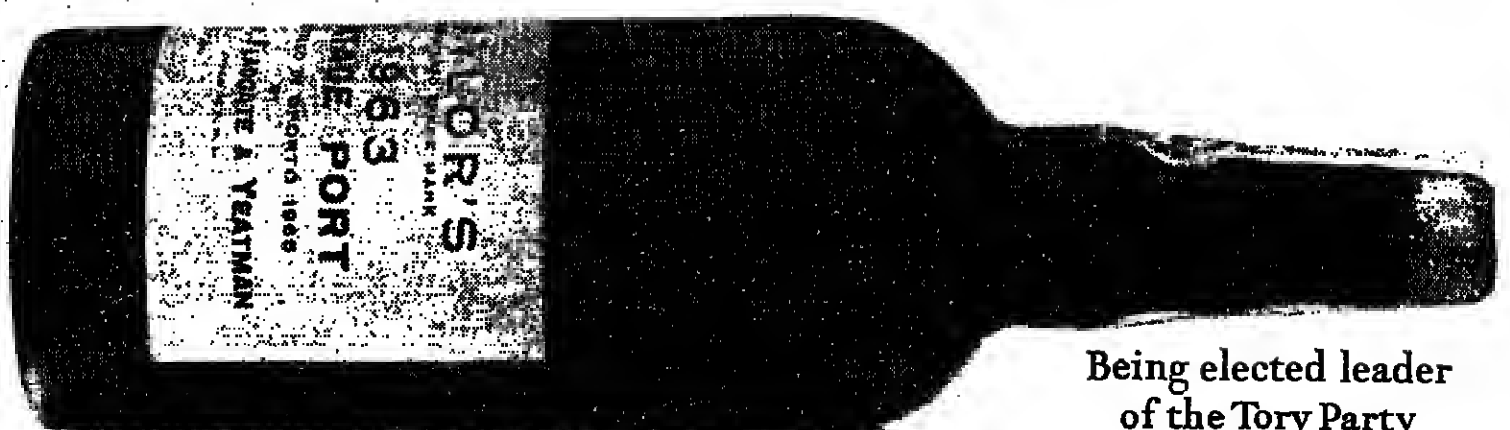
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EUROPEAN SECURITY SUMMIT

Kohl says reunited Germany will give EC sovereignty role

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN PARIS

IN AN implied rebuke to Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, told the Paris security summit yesterday that a united Germany would transfer much of its regained sovereignty to the European Community. He said the community was a vital component of the stable and united Europe to which the leaders of 34 European and North American nations are committing themselves at the summit Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

The chancellor told fellow leaders on their second day of talks that they had nothing to fear from German unification, one of the issues prompting the summit's convening. "Conscious of German history and the resultant moral and political responsibility, the united Germany will be a cornerstone of the peaceful European order," he said.

This order, he made clear, was based on the strengthening and evolution of the EC, the CSCE and the Strasbourg-

based Council of Europe. He said the EC must become an economic and monetary union and also a political union, and be the nucleus of a pan-European economic area open to the new democracies.

He emphasised that Germany regarded its frontiers as final. Only peace would emanate from German soil. And a united Germany would never go it alone. "Together we must and will meet the challenges facing us. This calls for action on the basis of pan-European responsibility and solidarity."

Herr Kohl's speech was seen here as strong affirmation of his belief in swifter and deeper European integration, partly to offset historic fears of German domination, and partly to reassure EC partners, especially France, that Germany would not retreat from its community commitments.

His promise to transfer key elements of German sovereignty to Brussels was seen as a riposte to the arguments of sceptics, especially in Britain, who feared national

sovereignty would be irretrievably lost in implementing monetary union and closer political integration.

Herr Kohl, whose central presence at the summit was underlined by his chairing of the first full session on Monday, thanked all 33 other leaders for their support for unification. Without the CSCE process it would not have been possible to achieve this peacefully, he said.

He also announced that he was giving immediate food aid to the Soviet Union and would send a ministerial team to Moscow next week to look at needs. The team would report on food distribution, customs rules and bureaucratic obstacles.

In separate talks, he also urged Mrs Thatcher and Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, to give emergency humanitarian aid to Moscow. "One must help friends when they are threatened," he said.



Arms control: President Bush at full stretch during a break on the second day of the CSCE summit in Paris

Madrid puts the Rock on agenda

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FELIPE González, prime minister of Spain, yesterday increased pressure on Britain to hand over sovereignty of Gibraltar by raising the dispute at the Paris summit.

He described the colony as an "anachronistic vestige" of the old order and said Britain and Spain "must solve the conflict of Gibraltar". Señor González is to make an official visit to Britain next week and seems likely to press the case with the government.

Britain shows no sign of giving up the Rock, but Señor González's tactics are bound to cause London some embarrassment. The aim of the Paris conference is to lay to rest conflicts left over from the second world war. Gibraltar does not belong to that category, but Señor González sought to make a link by saying that a settlement was essential if there was to be a new era of peace.

"We cannot expect to build a solid order on fragile foundations," he told the 33 other heads of state and government of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British position was well known. "The rights of the people of Gibraltar to determine their future are fully guaranteed under the



González: his tactics will embarrass London

1969 constitution," he said. The British and Spanish foreign ministers meet once a year to discuss their differences under an agreement made at Brussels in 1984. "Britain is fully committed to the process of bilateral discussions under the Brussels process," the spokesman said.

Spain has made some headway since 1984, but less than it hoped. After years of talking, the border between Spain and Gibraltar was fully opened in 1985. Britain and Spain reached agreement in 1987 that Spain should have access to Gibraltar's airport. When the Gibraltar government refused, London and Madrid agreed to work together to persuade it.

The Gibraltarians are not thought to have changed their attitude since the 1967 referendum, when they voted by 12,138-44 to retain the British link. Promises which Britain made to respect their wishes became less relevant after Franco's death, but have been repeated.

Britain's case is based on the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, under which Gibraltar was ceded to it in perpetuity. Madrid's reply is that, as Spain is now a democracy, a member of Nato, the EC and the Western European Union, Britain has no need to retain West Europe's only colony.

Najibullah holds talks with rebels

President Najibullah of Afghanistan, on a previously unannounced visit to Geneva, held unprecedented talks there yesterday with representatives of some Mujahidin guerrilla groups and those of the former King Zahir Shah (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

While details on the identities of those taking part were scarce, it was confirmed that the talks were aimed at the setting up of a coalition government in Kabul that would leave some of the more militant fundamentalist Mujahidin groups out in the cold.

Student deaths

Delhi - Three teenage schoolgirls burned themselves to death in different schools in Jabalpur town in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, to protest against the previous government's policy of reserving jobs for low-caste Hindus, the United News of India said. (Reuters)

Boys in ambush

Maputo - A gang of young boys belonging to the rebel Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, killed two people and injured five in an ambush on a convoy of civilian vehicles in southern Mozambique, the official AIM news agency reported. One survivor described the attackers as "kids" aged between 10 and 12. (AFP)

Crime threats

Tokyo - One in every six leading Japanese companies has received extortion threats from organised crime syndicates known as yakuza, a police report said. A survey of about 3,000 companies conducted by the National Police Agency also showed that about 30 per cent paid up. (Reuters)

Warsaw Pact's demise agreed

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

THE six remaining members of the Warsaw Pact have agreed that the military structure of the alliance will be dismantled by mid-1991 and the organisation will be scrapped by no later than early 1992, Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, told the Paris summit yesterday.

He was speaking the day after Nato and Warsaw Pact members signed a far-reaching agreement cutting conventional weapons and pledging friendship between all European nations, a move which he said had dealt a "mortal blow" to the pact's existence and had rendered it superfluous.

Mr Antall's speech was the first official, high-level confirmation that Warsaw Pact members are united in their determination to see the Soviet-dominated military alliance disappear now that democratic governments have been elected in almost all member countries except the Soviet Union.

"The new democracies of central Europe are now standing before the task of reforming security policies, and we hope the conditions for the complete dissolution of the Warsaw Pact within the Euro-

pean security system can be created by the start of 1992," he said.

The Moscow-based military command had already "virtually ceased to function", Mr Antall said. He recalled that Hungary said as early as June that it would no longer participate in pact military manoeuvres or allow joint exercises to take place on its territory, but had remained in the alliance to facilitate preparations for the Paris summit and the arms control treaty.

Gyorgy Keleti, the spokesman for the Hungarian defence ministry, said here yesterday that the July deadline for ending the military command was significant because it coincided with the date of the final withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He said it would take up to six months to "liquidate the command".

Confirmation of the dismantling of the pact after 45 years as Nato's hostile adversary means that the Soviet Union, which wanted alliance remnants to be transformed into a consultative political organisation, has yielded to demands first voiced by Hungary that it should be discarded and replaced with bilateral agreement.

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IT'S BEST TO BE DIRECT.

Doubts over armour and desert isolation sap morale of troops

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHAHRAN

WHEN President Bush visits Saudi Arabia tomorrow he will be among troops whose morale is being eroded by numbing boredom in a country whose customs many despise. Their enthusiasm for war is fuelled not so much by the cause as by a desire to get home as quickly as possible.

But such is the organisation that has gone into the trip — and the might of the public relations machine surrounding it — that American journalists are uncertain how much of the discontent the president will be allowed to witness.

In addition to disillusionment with conditions in a country where the military stand-off cannot be relieved by pleasures such as beer or men's magazines, there have also been growing doubts about the effectiveness of some American military hardware.

An American-made television film which shocked officers who watched it here this week raised serious questions about the operational effectiveness of the Apache helicopter, listing a catalogue of lapses in the functioning of the sophisticated "tank killer" which is supposed to provide the backbone of the American ability to knock out Iraqi

military hardware. Soon after the film was shown to a dismayed audience in the American-dominated press centre, news emerged that the centrepiece of the massive six-day exercise, "Operation Imminent Thunder," had been scrapped because — after two abortive attempts — hovercraft were unable to make the high winds and heavy seas on the Gulf coast at this time of year. The operation was named by American military planners to step up psychological pressure on Iraq, backfired because account had not been taken of high winds and heavy seas on the Gulf coast at this time of year. The operation was named by American military planners to step up psychological pressure on Iraq, backfired because account had not been taken of high winds and heavy seas on the Gulf coast at this time of year.

Other elements of the multinational force have also had equipment problems, including breakdowns of the British-built Challenger tank, but none have been on the scale of those which have afflicted the Americans. The large military public relations team has tried to persuade some news organisations that reporting of "familiarisation difficulties" would only serve to boost Iraqi morale.

Less effort is devoted to trying to disguise the mood of the American troops, which is obvious to anyone who meets

them. Observers who have been in Saudi Arabia since early August say it has worsened as the prospect of immediate attack on Kuwait or Iraq has been delayed.

Despite resolute denials by Washington spokesmen that President Saddam's offer to release all hostages between December 25 and March 25 will affect America's willingness to strike, many servicemen feel it is now less likely that the war widely predicted for January or February will take place then.

"Doubt about the date of a US strike has been compounded with nagging doubts about why the troops are actually here in the desert," a senior American correspondent said. "Some of them are beginning to worry that America has got itself involved in what amounts to an inter-Arab tribal squabble and others want Bush to lay on the line why they are here."

The correspondent, one of those given close access to US forces in the field, said that among them there was still a large element eager for an attack, but the main reason was boredom. "One sergeant put it succinctly this week," he added. "He said: 'Why don't we just bomb the whole Middle East into a parking lot and get the hell back home?'"



Captive audience: a Hezbollah fighter guarding rival Amal militiamen who are to be part of a prisoner exchange

Iraq to execute hoarders of grain

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQ introduced the death penalty yesterday for people convicted of hoarding cereals, belying its recent boasts that it had stockpiled enough food to beat sanctions for months.

The Iraqi parliament said the new law was needed to deter greed when the country was undergoing "an unjust economic embargo" and voted to give the government a monopoly on the sale and storage of wheat, barley, rice and maize. Farmers were told they could keep 500 kilograms

(1,100 lb) of wheat and 200 kilograms of rice for their own use, but must hand the rest over to the government within two weeks of the harvest.

Last week rice rations were cut by a third and wheat allowances reduced. The new measure came a day after Iraq announced it would send another 250,000 troops to Kuwait in response to the American-led build-up.

Yesterday President Saddam Hussein said all remaining German hostages should

be freed in response to calls by Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a peaceful solution to the confrontation in the Gulf.

The move was seen as another attempt to divide the alliance against Baghdad and to upstage the Paris conference on European security and co-operation where President Bush and his Secretary of State, James Baker, have been lobbying for a United Nations resolution authorising the use of force to free Kuwait. Iraq did not say whether the esti-

Syrian hint of force in Beirut

By JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO

FACING revamped challenges to its strategy in Lebanon, Syria yesterday reiterated its commitment to help President Hrawi extend his authority throughout the country and hinted that force could soon become necessary to evict the strongest Christian militia from Beirut.

Although principally aimed at Samir Geagea, the chief of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia, the signals from Damascus also reflected anxiety over Israel's determination to remain entrenched in southern Lebanon.

The reaffirmation of Syrian support came at surprise talks between President Assad and the Lebanese leader in Damascus on Monday, hours after Mr Geagea refused to surrender strongholds in eastern Beirut. The meeting coincided with an increase in Israeli army operations in the south.

A Syrian spokesman told reporters that President Assad maintains his decision to "help brotherly Lebanon on its march to regain normal life", but the official *Al-Thawra* newspaper was more specific. In a commentary reminiscent of President Assad's threats to General Michel Aoun before Syrian troops defeated him last month, the newspaper said that "any justifications given to delay the Greater Beirut plan are strongly rejected."

A report quoting a government source in Beirut said President Hrawi had not ruled out military action against Mr Geagea's 10,000-strong militia, and that government officials were advising Mr Geagea not to provoke Syria. The militia chief yesterday gave no sign of compromise.

Implementation of the security plan for "Greater Beirut" is the first and most significant test for the Arab League-sponsored peace accords ratified by the Lebanese parliament last year. Because of Syria's involvement in Lebanon, the plan is also crucial for President Assad's credibility in the region.

The plan, which has been accepted by all Muslim militias, calls for a reunified Beirut under the control of the Lebanese army as a preliminary to a reconciliation process and the adoption of political reforms to end the country's Christian-dominated system. Mr Geagea insists on "guarantees" that pro-Syrian forces will not fill the vacuum once the Lebanese Forces are redeployed from east Beirut to positions along the coast and the mountains north of the capital.

Israel fears for border security

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THERE was mounting concern in Jerusalem over Israel's deteriorating border security yesterday after the death of an Israeli army officer in southern Lebanon, the first such death for nearly a year.

Israeli officials said the situation in Lebanon and Jordan was giving "cause for concern" and increased pressure on Israeli border forces from armed Arab groups was directly attributable to the shake-up caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Diplomats say this in turn is increasing Israeli impatience at the postponement of action against Iraq by US-led forces.

Israeli officials called on King Hussein to restore an atmosphere of calm in Jordan, and accused him of "whipping up agitation" by alleging that Israel was planning an act of aggression against Jordan and wanted to destroy Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

An Israeli army spokesman said a lieutenant had been killed during a clash in southern Lebanon with Arab gunmen from the Syrian-backed Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. At least four of the Arabs were also killed. Significantly, the encounter took place four miles north of the security zone imposed by Israel five years ago as a buffer against armed attacks on its northern border.

Israeli officials have recently emphasised the need to "draw a red line" and stop infiltration attempts before they even reach the nine-mile deep zone. An official said the security zone was "very far from being the main obstacle to peace in Lebanon".

Israel would only withdraw its forces and abandon the zone when there was a "responsible government" in Lebanon with whom to negotiate a binding settlement. "We have seen too many pacification plans in Lebanon come and go," he said.

Israeli leaders are concerned that Syria's attempts to impose a settlement in Lebanon and reunify Beirut mean a

Hassain accused by Israel of encouraging unrest

ground and air force raids beyond its security zone in the past few weeks in an attempt to destroy the Hezbollah positions established in southern Lebanon.

Israeli sources said it was also strengthening its defences along the Jordan river following recent successful infiltrations by Arab extremists in which two Israeli soldiers were killed. Officials said the infiltrations pointed to a loss of control by King Hussein.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said the king was being subjected to "a wave of fanatical nationalism and Islamic hysteria".

Jordan fears that, in the chaos of a war with Iraq, Israel could expel Palestinians from the West Bank into Jordan, making Jordan into a *de facto* Palestinian state, and then settle West Bank towns such as Nablus and Hebron with Jewish immigrants.



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Leningrad begs for food from West to avert famine

From Nick Worrall in Moscow

FACED with its bleakest winter since the second world war, Leningrad is to start rationing food within a fortnight. The mayor, Anatoli Sobchak, has appealed to the West to send urgent food aid for the city's five million people, who face severe shortages.

From December 1 each citizen will receive ration coupons for 13lb of food, including 24lb of meat, 2lb of sausage, 1lb of butter, 10 eggs, 4lb of sugar and 2lb of pasta — each month.

"We have no choice but to try to control the food situation and ensure everybody gets a basic ration," said Konstantin Mitshin, deputy chairman of a special Leningrad committee set up to deal with the impending food crisis.

The most bitter memory of Leningrad's older citizens is how hundreds of thousands died of starvation during the German blockade from 1941 to 1944. In recent weeks, notices have been posted in the city calling on the "blockade spirit" to help to overcome a winter predicted to be harsh and beset by shortages.

The commission was set up amid concern about the growth of barter deals by suppliers in the Soviet Union's outer republics who refuse to supply the crumbling central Soviet planning and distribution system. Moscow's city council is planning a similar move. The Ukraine and Armenia have already introduced rationing.

Mr Sobchak said emergency food aid was needed to prevent famine, and also to prevent public opinion from turning against democratic reforms. "Already a lot of people are saying 'Let's go back to the way things were under Brezhnev' — at least there was food in the stores," he said.

In another development, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is to send a high-level team to the Soviet Union next week to assess the country's needs and decide on ways to send urgent food aid.

Huge reserve stocks of food have been held in Berlin for years against the possibility, ironically, of a Soviet blockade similar to that of 1948-1949 which was overcome by the Berlin airlift. In 200,000 missions over 10 months, Allied pilots flew in 1.5 million tons of food. Since then, West Berlin has stored food reserves which today amount to 350,000 tonnes of frozen and tinned meat, rice, wheat, dried vegetables and sugar.

The European Community also has stockpiles of food that

could be sent to the Soviet Union. But officials in Brussels say they are concerned that the Soviet transport system is so bad that the food might not reach remote areas that most need it. No request has been received from Moscow for emergency food aid.

In the meantime, the needy people of Leningrad will soon receive the first food parcels from residents of the German port of Hamburg, where funds are also being collected for medicines. Bremen and Dresden are reported to be preparing their own help schemes.

Leningrad's rationing scheme will not be an easy solution. There are worries that not enough food will be found to guarantee minimum supplies, and that Leningrad will suffer a repeat of the debacle in the Ukraine last month. For three days between the announcement and the launch of the scheme, shoppers besieged food stores.

On Sunday leading Leningrad academics appealed for help for the city's 300,000 students, described as "the lowest-paid people in the city, living below the poverty line", whose grants do not exceed 60 roubles (£60) a month. City leaders were asked to allow subsidies so students could meet extra food costs.

As in the Ukraine, prices are likely to rise steeply because many suppliers will avoid state shops and sell their food on the private open market.

● KIEV: The Communist majority in the Ukraine parliament yesterday forced through an amendment designed to take back the sweeping powers the party had enjoyed until last spring's elections. Democratic MPs now fear that the new amendment will neutralise their power (Robert Seely writes).

The republic's president, Leonid Kravchuk, pushed through the change amid uproar and accusations of cheating made by many independent MPs. One despondent member of parliament, Vadym Boyko, summed up thus yesterday's proceedings: "Today was the finish of democratic forces in our parliament. We can no longer do anything — we are merely guests here."

Another leading radical deputy, Yuri Zhurav, said: "This was an attack by reactionary forces. Their aim was to suppress the opposition and to hold on to power for as long as possible. We are like hostages on a political plane that has been hijacked by the party."

Nuclear blackmail, page 14

German voters unable to escape tax increases

From Ian Murray in Bonn

GERMAN voters now know that taxes will increase, no matter which party they choose in next month's elections. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, in a sign that he is confident of victory, has said publicly that he intends raising extra revenue. But what the extra money is for remains unclear.

The Bundestag meets in a special session tomorrow to debate the issue, with the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) making what looks like a despairing effort to force the coalition government to admit it got its sums wrong over unification.

The SPD is able to mount the attack because Herr Kohl, who has promised all along that unification would not add a penny to revenue needs, said clearly for the first time at the weekend that "one way or another" German citizens must expect to pay more during the lifetime of the next parliament. Extra money would be raised, he said, by taxing the use of energy to encourage cuts in carbon dioxide emissions and so help the environment.

Oskar Lafontaine, his SPD challenger, who has always said that unification would inevitably force up taxes, has described the chancellor's "green tax" as a lie. The "green tax" he created that unification would cost nothing.

The government has acknowledged that unification is proving more expensive than expected. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, has already announced plans to save 35 billion (£12.06 billion) DM from public spending on items from defence and administration next year, which would

then be available to pay for restructuring in the east, avoiding the need for unpopular tax increases.

Even with these proposed savings, the expected public sector deficit will probably reach DM 150 billion next year, about 5 per cent of the gross national product, forcing up public borrowing to an unprecedented DM 70 billion, DM 3 billion more than this year's record government loan.

Herr Waigel insists it is better to increase borrowing than to put up taxes. "Tax increases poison growth. A tax increase to finance the costs of

the way for possible new taxes about a month ago by refusing to rule out the possibility that they might be introduced "because of the Gulf confrontation". With consummate skill, he is now switching the argument away from the divisive unification question to the popular German theme of protecting the environment.

The cabinet agreed earlier this month, as a contribution to reducing global warming, to work for a 25 per cent reduction by 2005 in carbon dioxide emissions and backed taxation as an important way of achieving this target.

Klaus Töpper, the environment minister, favours a system which will increase the tax on cars proportionate to the size of their engines. He has also called on the automobile industry to develop private cars using at least 30 per cent less fuel.

Apart from using taxation as a means of "persuasion" the government wants more money available to spend on research into renewable energy systems, such as wind and water power, which currently provides just 2.6 per cent of Germany's energy needs. Assuming the government wins the election, detailed legislation on the new programme will be brought in next autumn after inter-ministerial working parties have had time to draft the necessary laws.

Herr Lafontaine, whose entire electoral programme has been designed around the creation of an environmentally friendly and socially responsible economy, is thus being outflanked by Herr Kohl in the one issue where he might have felt to be in the lead. The SPD is now taking full-page advertisements in popular newspapers, such as *Bild*, to press its environmental credentials.

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Feet first: Bucharest shoppers scuffle in a queue to buy shoes, now in short supply in the Romanian capital

Rocard survives by a whisker to fight again

From Philip Jacobson in Paris

AFTER Michel Rocard had fought off yet another no-confidence motion against France's Socialist government by a meagre five votes late Monday night, a photographer snapped him smiling broadly among a crowd of relieved supporters.

A combination of political arm-twisting and the prime minister's effective speech to the National Assembly had done the trick, leaving the conservative opposition and their temporary allies in the Communist faction to squabble about what went wrong.

But while the right and the far left emerge from this latest tussle in even worse shape than before, M Rocard's long-term survival remains a matter for speculation. In the run-up to the vote, tabled over national health contribution increases, President Mitterrand left the distinct impression that he would not lose much sleep over the fate of his prime minister, for all M Rocard's brave words about unwavering support from the Elysée Palace.

The feeling persists that the most astute politician in France has decided, not for the first time, to distance himself from a government passing through a period of growing unpopularity. The dexterity with which Mitterrand transfers the blame for Socialist policies the nation dislikes to M Rocard's office shows evidence of *Le Florentine* at work.

But M Rocard is made of altogether tougher stuff than his inoffensive, almost self-effacing presence may suggest,

and two and a half years under M Mitterrand have taught him a thing or two about self-preservation. His mid-term standing in the opinion polls remains unusually high, occasionally surpassing the popularity of the president, and he has more political options than may first appear.

Most observers agree that the contest for the presidential succession lies behind the present manoeuvring, and that M Mitterrand is still backing Laurent Fabius, the

former prime minister. Unless things go seriously wrong, M Rocard will be among the Socialists' front-runners when M Mitterrand steps down in 1995 (or possibly earlier), and every move he makes until then is designed to strengthen his claim.

Before Monday's vote, Rocard faithfuls were arguing that being forced out of office over an issue like the proposed financial reform of France's social welfare system — long overdue and intended to

spread the tax burden more equitably — would hardly damage his credibility. At the same time, the threat of an economic downturn, plus a murky scandal involving funding of the last Mitterrand election campaign and continuing turbulence in the high schools, promise to make life increasingly difficult for the Socialists.

Some political analysts feel that M Rocard has already done enough to mark him down as presidential timber:

others argue that he should plough on, whatever the problems, if only to convince the electorate that he has the right stuff.

In the view of the left-wing daily *Libération*, beating off the latest no-confidence motion cannot be taken as a rousing vote of confidence in M Rocard: it may have bought him a little breathing space, but the fundamental problems facing France today will soon be weighing as heavily on his shoulders as before.

Romania rally backs premier

From Tim Judah in Bucharest

TWENTY thousand Romanians demonstrated their support for the ruling National Salvation Front yesterday at a rally in Bucharest's Aviator Square. They chanted: "We work, we fight and with the front we're right."

They gave an ecstatic reception to the movement's leader, Petre Roman, the prime minister. The relatively small turnout contrasted with the more than 100,000 anti-government demonstrators on the streets last Thursday.

Addressing the rally, Mr Roman admitted that his government, elected six months ago, had made many mistakes. In what appeared to be a significant shift of emphasis, he said: "We have still not succeeded in bringing to justice top communists, policemen and Securitate who were responsible for all those years of dictatorship."

The crowds booed as another speaker asked them what they thought of Romania's new neo-communist party, the Socialist Party of Labour, whose birth has given the front a chance to distance itself from communism. Cheerleaders began the chant of "Down with communism", a cry hitherto associated with anti-front demonstrations.

Yesterday's rally appeared to be the first attempt by the front to revive its flagging popularity, hard hit by recent price rises. It is preparing for a convention in January where, said Claudiu Iordache, its vice-president, it would change from a broad-based movement into a "social democratic centre-left party".

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From anarchy to blackmail

Conor Cruise O'Brien

The Paris summit has taken place amid an orgy of make-believe. All those attending have acted out an agreed fable, according to which the Soviet Union is still a coherent political entity for which Mr Gorbachev can speak with authority and the future political conduct of which he can guarantee. On the basis of these assumptions, the communiqué announced "a new era of friendship and cooperation between East and West".

The nearest thing to a note of realism was struck by Douglas Hurd, when he referred to "a threat of anarchy" in the Soviet Union. Anarchy, unfortunately, is more than a threat; it is the present condition of what once was the Soviet Union. As far as Russia is concerned, the condition is succinctly described by a Russian commentator: "Anarchy is when you have a president, a Supreme Soviet, a republican parliament, a selection within the Communist party apparatus, all distrusting each other and issuing decrees that nobody respects."

That is the condition of the Russian Federation. In the 14 other republics, conditions are similar, in some cases approaching civil war. The dissolution of the Soviet Union into 15 sovereign states has been held up only because most of the republics are also on the verge of dissolution.

To stop the rot, or rather to be seen to be trying to stop it, Mr Gorbachev announced on Saturday a series of measures, at the core of which is the assumption of personal executive power by himself as president. But for months, no one has been paying attention to Soviet law. Can it be otherwise with decrees from Mr Gorbachev?

Presidential decrees might not be ignored if they could quickly put goods into the shops, but we may assume that if he knew any method of doing that, he would have done so already. As it is, the shortages are turning to famine. In a poll conducted by *Moscow News*, 62 per cent of respondents in 21 cities feared a famine in the next few months. Mr Gorbachev's assumption of supreme power is a response to this desperate situation, the result of months of anarchy, following the failure of the command economy.

Many other countries are undergoing the horrors of anarchy, but the Soviet Union is unique, for there anarchy is swirling around a tremendous concentration of nuclear weaponry. Out of today's anarchic conditions, new power formations will emerge. Are they likely to be more aggressive than the present Soviet leadership? If so, to what purpose might they apply their control of the fearsome force at their disposal?

These questions are obviously not the kind of thing that could be asked at the summit. After the signature of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe, the Soviet chief negotiator, Oleg

Grinevsky, announced: "With this treaty the Soviet Union is ceasing to be a military power." True, for the Soviet Union is ceasing to be any kind of power at all, but the military capacity remains.

It has been generally assumed that the death of communism as an aggressive revolutionary ideology means the end of any Soviet military threat. That is not a safe assumption. We shall not know about that until the present phase of anarchy is over: until new power structures have emerged capable of exercising effective authority in the sphere of the nuclear weaponry, and until we know in what spirit this authority will be exercised.

The new rulers will perhaps show themselves as conciliatory and pacifist as Mr Gorbachev. We must all hope so. But I fear the odds are against this. Competition for power under conditions of anarchy is a kind of accelerated natural selection within the political order. The winners are likely to be tough people, willing to rule by fear, in accordance with Russian tradition. They will have an authoritarian ideology, appropriate to their character and situation. We shall be lucky if the new regime is not more dangerous than post-Stalin communism was.

The new rulers will want to fill the shops as quickly as they can. Among their few "assets" are those nuclear weapons. Could those assets, and the fear they inspire in neighbouring nations, be used to fill the shops? Nuclear blackmail will certainly be among the possibilities considered by the type of new ruler likely to emerge.

Germany is the most likely primary target of blackmail. It has already paid Moscow a considerable sum for reunification. Nobody can yet see what forms the interaction between the new Germany and the new Russia will take, but it would be foolish to deny that there are some unpleasant possibilities. That nice Mr Gorbachev will not be around much longer, and that nice Mr Kohl may not long survive him.

This train of thought suggests that Mrs Thatcher's political instincts are right when she resists proposals tending towards a federal Europe. We would be wise not to rush anything until we have a better idea of which way Russia is going. The enormous question-mark over the future of Russia puts a smaller, but still sizeable, question-mark over Germany too. An integrated European Community presided over (in effect) by Chancellor Kohl is one thing; an integrated Europe dominated by a Germany under pressure from the East might be more constricting, to put it mildly.

Whatever happens next week, Mrs Thatcher is sure of a place in history. She has made mistakes, the biggest being the poll tax, but I believe that history will vindicate her cautious approach to European unity.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Bury St Edmunds is the most reassuring of towns. It is not a place where fashions come and go; they come, find themselves a quiet nook, and settle.

In the rest of the country, the hippies of 1968 have gone underground, or rather overground. Their beards have been shaved, their T-shirts have grown collarless, even their flares have gone straight. In sensible jobs now, their attendance on the alternative society is restricted to the occasional purchase of a Picador paperback.

But in Bury St Edmunds, you can still catch sight of unconstructed hippies — beards, moustaches and joss-sticks at the ready — still mooching through "The Doors of Perception" and Kahil Gibran. Those conspiracy theorists who believe that Jim Morrison never died may find it worth checking the place out: any entrepreneur wishing to print some "Jim Morrison Lives in Bury St Edmunds" T-shirts could well find he has hit the nail on the head. In Andy's Records in St John's Street, where the hippy preference for Christian names still holds firm, you will find Morrison records listed under "J" for Jim, just as Wagner is listed under "R".

Fashions that could be bothered to hang around Chelsea only for a matter of months find Bury St Edmunds a refuge from the fickleness of time. Here, Tories still wear tweeds, bikers still wear leathers and market stall holders still speak gibberish. With the winklepicker, the bowler hat, the hipster, the platform heel? What of kipper ties, cravats, Lurex socks, plus-fours? And, most important of all, whatever became of slacks? You will find each of them somewhere on the streets of Bury St Edmunds. I wouldn't be at all surprised to find them all attached to the same person, rubbing along together merrily.

On Monday, my wife was admitted to the maternity wing of the hospital at Bury St Edmunds. She is expecting a baby in a matter of days, and they are keen to monitor her blood pressure. Our first child was born there just over two years ago. I can think of few cheerier, more friendly places in

which to enter the world. Nevertheless, one enters a new ward with a certain apprehension, and a dread kindled by memories of going back to the prep-school dormitory: this is your bed, this is your locker, this is the board on which to stick your photos from home.

When we were first shown to my wife's bed in the corner of the ward, I couldn't resist a snoop at the photos on the board of the bed next to hers. There were three photos: a punk emerging from a caravan, the same punk, this time with a ferret hanging around his neck, and a large dog, probably an Alsatian, glaring into the middle distance. Even the most avant-garde of my fellow inmates at prep-school was unable to sport family photographs of such splendour.

As my wife tried to get herself comfortable, the occupant of the next bed arrived back, hand in hand with the punk. As *de rigueur* for Bury St Edmunds, he was a true punk, not a reconverted punk, not even a nostalgic punk, but an original 1977 punk with a mohican haircut and bright red tartan trousers replete with chains, as innocent of archness and as redolent of a bygone age as the most redoubtable Chelsea Pensioner.

There had, it emerged, been a bit of trouble, and the punk was asked to report to an administrator. It seemed that, dogs being barred from the wards, he had left his Alsatian tied to a post just outside the hospital and someone had ventured rather too close. Whether that person had been bitten or merely been snapped at seemed a moot point; either way, he was creating a fuss.

Somewhat to my surprise, the whole ward sided with the punk and his Alsatian. "Silly to have come close — deserves everything he got — some people make a fuss about anything," was the general verdict. In Bury St Edmunds, just as punks are expected to be punks and hippies are expected to be hippies, so Alsatians are fully expected to be Alsatians. Nevertheless, I think I detected a twinge of worry about the exact whereabouts of the ferret.

Ronald Butt urges Mrs Thatcher to clear the way for Hurd or Major

She is wrong to fight on

Mrs Thatcher has been denied her outright victory and forced to a second ballot. Although she has a clear lead over Mr Heseltine in absolute terms, she has not in the tortured leadership election procedure the Tories have inflicted on themselves, secured the required 15 per cent margin of the total number of votes cast. She has immediately and unequivocally declared that she will fight on.

She has to be admired as a fighter who is particularly loath to cede the ground to this particular challenger. But the question she and others have to answer is whether Mr Heseltine is more likely to be prevented from taking over (with all the consequences for European policy she most fears) if she tries to fight on or whether it would now be better for her to go and let another carry her banner.

A deplorable humiliation has been inflicted on a prime minister of outstanding achievement, and the Conservatives are likely to regret it. They have good cause for shame at the cavalier way in which a contest has been engineered so dangerously close to the coming general election when there is no clearly formulated issue on which the rival candidates stake their claims. If they succeed in driving Mrs Thatcher to the backbenches, Mr Heseltine and his backers have created a force for new dissent that may well divide the Tories disastrously in the event of an incontinent rush to European economic union which threatens political union as well.

In all this, it is Mr Heseltine and his friends who have been the divisive influence, using rules of contest which were invented for the party in opposition and which should be changed.

The only position that makes sense under our constitution is that the prime minister must be able to form and maintain a cabinet acceptable to his or her party and it is the cabinet as a whole that is responsible to the House of Commons. The cabinet has remained loyal to Mrs Thatcher throughout this crisis. If she was to be called to account, they, who continue to support her, should have been called to account as well. This is a crisis that should never have happened.

Nevertheless, the contest has happened, and Mrs Thatcher has been able to command the positive support of little more than half her backbenchers. The rest would prefer someone else but not all of them want Mr Heseltine. Quite apart from the abstainers, a number of Mr Heseltine's supporters yesterday seem likely to have voted for him simply to smoke out their preferred candidate in the second round. Some of Mrs Thatcher's supporters also can be assumed to wish that she had stood down before this, even though they were rightly disgusted by the manner of the challenge.

What the Conservative party now needs is healing and settling, and this will not be achieved by Mrs Thatcher's participation in a second ballot that at best promises a victory which may only be marginal. If she were, after all, to stand aside she would not only avoid the possible humiliation of defeat. She would also be able to release Douglas Hurd and John Major from their undertaking not to stand against her, to which presumably they will otherwise be honour bound to adhere. With her support, however, either could garner more votes against Mr Heseltine than Mrs Thatcher could. Political logic therefore now suggests that Mrs Thatcher should free them from their commitment to her.

In the second round she seems unlikely to achieve a majority large enough for her to be able to claim the full-hearted support of her party in Parliament. Before the first round, she seemed to have a substantial majority among Tory activists, but among Tory voters and potential voters it is clear that she arouses a deep-rooted antipathy. She is blamed not only (and not unjustly) since it was she who insisted on it) for the poll tax, but also for the unsatisfactory condition of public services and for what has gone wrong with the economy.

On the last of these she herself has admitted that she erred in failing to tighten the lax financial policy pursued by Nigel Lawson in 1988. But, instead of confronting him in cabinet to get an agreed policy, she purveyed criticisms of his policy informally through the media, seriously damaging finan-



cial confidence in the government's policy.

This was only one instance of her tendency to go it alone in her relations to the cabinet and in the formation of policy. The last and most damaging was the episode which precipitated Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation and provided the pretext for Mr Heseltine's challenge.

All this has been the consequence of her failure at management. Nicholas Ridley

was right to liken the challenge to her to a medieval palace revolution. But such revolutions almost invariably happened when a king failed to consult men who considered themselves his natural counsellors (equivalent to the cabinet today), preferring instead the Bushys, Bagors and Greens who, though not always negligible figures, had only the status of personal adherents and disciples. Mrs Thatcher's period as prime minister has not been free of this

fault. It really does matter that in a cabinet all should say (and mean) the same thing.

Even if Mrs Thatcher wins the second ballot it seems inconceivable that she could heal the wounds that have been inflicted on the party. Nor is it likely that she could express British policy far Europe in terms that promote rather than frustrate the ends of British national parliamentary accountability which is so close to her heart. In domestic policy, it is believable that she could bring herself to acknowledge that the poll tax requires much more radical change than any so far contemplated. Above all, could she be brought to see that consensus is not (as she thinks) a cloak to cover lack of agreement but a way of securing policy on which coherent action is possible?

She draws an analogy with religious leaders' avoidance of consensus, but the religious solutions by which St Paul denounced the immorality of the Corinthians are irrelevant to the pragmatic processes by which politicians have to try to reconcile their disagreement over ways and means, as distinct from principles.

The logic of the situation is therefore clear. She should think again and let the Conservatives find a new leader to take them forward to the general election, one who can guard the democratic and parliamentary national accountability which she has set herself to guard in the European Community. She is in a strong position to influence the choice of that successor.

On the backbenches she would be the much needed champion of this cause whom the government would have to take into account in its policy-making on Europe. If she insists on standing, then Mr Hurd and Mr Major (even if they feel bound not to stand against her) are entitled to tell her they no longer feel able to serve with her. That would be a grave decision, but it could come to that.

If, after all, she were to stand aside with dignity now, sparing the party more fighting that will tear it apart, this would not be the least of the many services she has done it.

Tsars of the arts face a peasant revolt

Richard Morrison, arts editor, welcomes the new funding plans that will transfer power from London to the regions

Who runs the arts in Britain? Much the same crowd that ran the arts 12 years ago, before Mrs Thatcher came to power: the same cosy coterie that has dictated British cultural taste since 1945.

The Arts Council, a self-perpetuating oligarchy, decides how to carve up £200 million of public subsidy. Fewer than 50 television producers and a handful of high-profile presenters control the arts diet of the armchair audience. A similar-sized elite of record company executives shapes the listening, viewing and spending habits of a vast, passive army of youthful consumers that lacks the gumption to attempt an adolescent rebellion.

This is no conspiracy theory: the paternalistic "we know what is good for you" doctrine of benign liberalism has stunted Britain towards a richer post-war cultural life than we probably deserve for the money we pay. Nevertheless, the arts establishment would benefit from a thorough shake-up.

Change, in the Arts, is nearly always good, says Gavin Ewart in his satire, *A New Post Arrives*. He was being ironic; his poem implies that change in the arts does not matter a damn, because it does not alter the status quo in the "really important things". While

many "really important things" have changed under Mrs Thatcher's government, the arts hierarchy continues to operate within much the same insular groups. In the 1980s, ordinary citizens could buy a voice in the running of British Gas or Telecom; they could have a say in the running of their children's schools. But they never came within a mile of influencing the process which decides that, for instance, the Royal Shakespeare Company should receive the amount it does, or spend it on the plays it does.

In some respects, the government has been unlucky with the attempts it has made to open up the system. Encouraging business sponsorship of the arts, for instance, should in theory have brought arts organisations into stimulating contact with refreshingly different values. In practice, however, the business world has been so wary of interfering with that mystical concept called artistic freedom that most sponsors never set foot inside the theatre during rehearsals, for fear of compromising the actors' integ-

ity. There is no dialogue, except on the level of "How much money do you want, and how big a programme credit do I get?"

Elsewhere, projects that offer early promise of an alternative culture seem inexorably to be sucked into the mainstream. Perhaps the necessity of improving its ratings led Channel 4 away from its quirky, iconoclastic approach to arts programmes and back into BBC 2-style respectability; or perhaps its commissioning editors became stuck with their once-fresh ideas. Either way, Channel 4 is not the conduit for imaginative cultural programmes that it once was.

We should also regret the passing of the "indie" record labels. Each time a gallant minor such as Island Records is consumed by a whale such as Polygram, consumer choice is diminished. And each time a British film director gives up the demoralising task of raising finance for a production in Britain, and accepts instead the carrots dangled by a Japanese-owned Hollywood, consumer choice is diminished.

Such moves in the commercial world may be regretted, but they are understandable, perhaps inevitable. In the privileged world of arts subsidy, however, there is no excuse for not having greatly diversified opinions reflected in the main decision-making process. What causes the narrowness is fear: the fear that if the controlling elite is widened too much, cross-funding choices will endanger centres of excellence.

Now the government is at last bringing a velvet-covered sledgehammer to bear on that all-powerful consensus of taste: a weapon called devolution, which will mean that most decisions are taken not by the Arts Council but by regional arts boards around the country. Predictably enough, some arts organisations are already protesting, but I detect the unpleasant whine of metropolitan snobishness in this scaremongering.

Yes, there are dangers and unhappy precedents. In the notorious heyday of the Greater London Arts Association, what was perceived as the Arts Coun-

cil's "white middle-class" bias was countered with a Stalinist zeal. Yes, there are local authorities so stingy about money for the arts that they do not deserve representation on the regional arts boards. But the boards must shape them into paring with the cash.

Yes, there are councillors who will insist on having the national anthem played at every concert by the orchestra they subsidise (it happened in a south coast resort a few years ago); and yes, there will probably be people sitting on the regional arts boards who have never seen a Minnet close up, or heard a lute recital, or watched a single scene of Howard Brenton. The arts will be fought over, and that is no bad thing.

Better this than the furtive behind-closed-doors odour which seeps from the Arts Council when it decides that, for example, one valuable touring opera company should be unceremoniously axed, while others may run up deficits of millions. The most exciting arts initiatives in Britain today emanate from Glasgow and Birmingham, cities that were cultural jokers ten years ago. Such regeneration shows what those patronised as "local folk" can do. London has been allowed to run with the ball for too long; it is time for other players to demonstrate their flair.

Just too matey with Thatcher

Immediately after the vote was counted last night, Mrs Thatcher's campaign manager, George Younger, was flying to Edinburgh to face criticism at a board meeting today of the Royal Bank of Scotland, of which he is chairman, for tying his colours so firmly in her mast.

With support for the government running at scarcely 20 per cent north of the border, Younger's role can hardly have enhanced the bank's public image there. Even more embarrassingly, the bank's stand on European integration is more akin to Michael Heseltine's than Mrs Thatcher's. It displayed its EC solidarity by taking a major shareholding in the Banco Santander of Spain. A spokesman for the Royal Bank of Scotland says: "We would have preferred the leadership election not to have happened, if only for the reason that George Younger would not have been involved."

Although Younger ran Mrs Thatcher's campaign against Sir Anthony Meyer last year, his position then as merely a director of the bank was less sensitive. Subsequently, however, he became deputy chairman in January and then chairman in July. Although it was accepted that he would still perform his constituency and parliamentary duties as MP for Ayr (where he sits on a precarious majority of 182), the bank did not expect him to play a high-profile party political role.

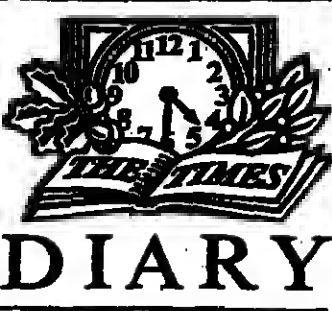
consider succeeding Michael Forsyth as chairman. He decided. And less than two weeks ago he told journalists he would not run the prime minister's campaign against Heseltine. Mrs Thatcher, however, can be a very persuasive lady.

Perhaps it was knowledge of the music he is about to face in Edinburgh that caused Younger to be so coy yesterday when asked for whom he had voted. "I cannot possibly tell you that," he replied.

When Mrs Thatcher instructed Peter Morrison, her PPS, in cast her vote by proxy yesterday, just whom did she tell him to vote for? The question is not entirely fatuous. In 1971, John Gorton, then Australian prime minister, faced a leadership ballot among his fellow Liberal MPs. Deciding he had become a liability, he voted against himself — and lost by just one vote. "I had to save the government from possible defeat," he said by way of explanation.

Part of the job

The favourites have withdrawn from a contest to night to earn the title of Britain's best bluffars. A team of MPs was set to do battle with teams of financiers, barristers, vicars, ballet dancers and publishers in the first annual Perudo tournament at the Groucho Club in Soho. The traditional dice game from the street corners of Peru in which the winners are those who can carry off the biggest lie seemed a natural for the MPs, many of whom have excelled themselves in recent days by pledging support to the campaign managers of both Margaret Thatcher and Michael Heseltine, so



that if the canvass returns were to be believed, a near-150 per cent turn out would have been achieved.

A team from Parliament was duly entered, but it was withdrawn yesterday. A spokeswoman for the organisers says: "The leadership election has just been too much for them. It's a shame because we thought they had a very good chance." The new favourites are the vicars.

Snow on their pumps

The Russians may have pulled out of Eastern Europe, but they are fast invading that bastion of British culture, the Royal Ballet. Increasingly the spotlight at Covent Garden is falling on Soviet rather than home-grown talent, and the trend seems to have proved too much for one of the company's principal male dancers, Phillip Broomhead. After the announcement of the departure of senior principal Wayne Eagling to the Dutch National Ballet, Broomhead is leaving for Houston, Texas, after more than a decade with the Royal Opera House company.

that his departure is connected with the hiring of a succession of Soviet guest stars, but it is clear that Broomhead's chances of dancing lead roles have been diminished. This summer, Covent Garden trumpeted the arrival of trek Mukhammedov as a permanent member of the company from the Bolshoi, while on Friday, Alexei Fadeychev will be welcomed to the stage, again borrowed from the Bolshoi.

Going by the book
George Carey, soon to become Archbishop of Canterbury, has become one of Britain's most wanted men. Since his appointment was announced in July, he has given interviews to those writing personal profiles but has refused to divulge his thoughts on theology



and the future of the church. "This is not the right moment to ask such questions," says his press officer, the Rev Brian Pearson. "Dr Carey feels that these issues should be addressed to the current

archbishop. He will deal with them only after he is enthroned." In tactics worthy of the royal rapscall, one enterprising journalist got nearer than most of his rivals by hitching a 120-mile lift in Dr Carey's car and leaving his tape recorder running. Others scribbled furiously in the pews of parish churches as Carey goes around the country preaching. "I suppose it's one way to boost our congregations," says Pearson.

Mrs Thatcher can enjoy at least one consolation after last night's vote. She can at long last apply for membership of the Conservative club in Michael Heseltine's Henley constituency. The club, one of the two remaining Tory social clubs in England to operate a men-only policy, voted last week to open its doors to women, but only to enjoy a drink or a meal. Women remain banned from both the dart board and the snooker room.

Figure this out

Mrs Thatcher's stature remains undiminished in America, where rows about Europe find little resonance. In a mock leadership ballot held among Republican party members in Chicago, she scored a resounding 93 per cent of the vote. But, in the true spirit of Chicago politics, the result did not add up. Michael Heseltine scored 16 per cent and Clio Moynihan (don't ask who put his name forward, or how the Chicagoans had come to hear of him) managed 7 per cent. Joseph Morris, the ballot organiser, who held junior office in the Reagan administration, was disappointed by the turn-out. "Well short of Chicago's customary 130 per cent," he laments.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

THE ALLEY FIGHT CONTINUES

Nobody who takes on Margaret Thatcher can expect an easy contest. She fights inelegantly but fiercely. Her campaign to stave off Michael Heseltine's bid for her leadership is proving as messy as her 1987 election campaign. Her aides are second-rate, her tactics weak. Had she not spent the past three days in Paris - having brought forward the leadership contest - she might have won on the first ballot. As it was, she has suffered an all but lethal blow. The mistress of the political alley fight must now go another round.

Had Mrs Thatcher received less than majority support from her parliamentary colleagues, the pressure on her to stand down before the second round would have been overwhelming and justified. The much-abused rules permit new entrants to the race and the party would rightly have been given the chance with fresh candidates to choose a new beginning. As it is, Mrs Thatcher only narrowly missed victory. Those not wishing to support her could well have abstained and her vote of 204 must be assumed a reasonably solid one. Her backers, Douglas Hurd and John Major, have both said they will not run against her. Give or take some spoilers, the assumption must be that the Conservative party faces another two-horse race in a week's time.

Mrs Thatcher has been sorely wounded. She is up against a strong challenger who has fought her for four years with the panache of a seasoned American presidential candidate. Mr Heseltine has marshalled money, talent and arguments, and has chosen his moment to attack with care. He is a sound challenger. Save for the pardonable sin of reneging on his promise not to run, he has conducted a creditable campaign, avoiding references to Mrs Thatcher's much-discussed personality.

The best interests of the Conservative party would now lie in Mr Heseltine honourably disregarding the letter of the leadership rules and standing down. He fought well but was unable to get either a formal winning vote or even a majority of the parliamentary party to support him. Damage has been done to the party by the outcome of his challenge. While it is unlikely that he will win on the next ballot, by staying in the contest, he is making certain even more damage. He would have done himself good in Conservative circles by withdrawing now. That is not to be.

Mrs Thatcher has brought much of this trouble on her head and has the most serious emergency of her career to surmount. Previously she brushed aside any intra-party dissent as the product of faint hearts, closet corporatists, wets and has-beens. She cannot dismiss it now. An election could be still 18 months away, months of continued high

inflation, rising unemployment and more trouble on the poll tax front. The case for her last night was that she has recovered from such difficulties in the past. This expectation is reduced.

Mrs Thatcher must find an answer to the charges thrown at her this past month and do so in a matter of days. She has been asked to soften her tone and ameliorate her style since she was in political raptures. The effect of such advice has been zero. She revels in her public profile, arguing with some justice that the hostility it evokes is that of a bunch of compromisers and male chauvinists. Stridency, she says, is part and parcel of her conviction politics and her international reputation. Soften the edges of that profile and you will pull down the base of her government.

Mrs Thatcher's weakness is her inability to convince her political allies of this exotic thesis. This is not so much a matter of policies. Any government worth its salt has disagreements between personalities and departments. Mrs Thatcher has a publicly united cabinet on her European Community strategy - if not on her general outlook on Europe - as well as on such crucial matters as the economy, education and health and even the beighted poll tax. She has pursued unpopular lines before and won the day.

What she must do is present the nation the appearance of an experienced team of vigorously independent ministers. She must do this urgently. The recent spate of resignations, most of them avoidable with a modicum of tact on her part, may be forgotten. But her solitary and authoritarian isolation has emerged from the past month's polls as her most serious electoral liability. She needs to swallow her huge pride and retire behind the line-up of competent colleagues heading her major departments.

Her two proposers last night, Douglas Hurd and John Major, are not just her most dominant ministers; they are also natural candidates for the succession. She must conclude a pact with them that extends beyond leadership support to embrace the whole future of the government's strategy; likewise Chris Patten, Kenneth Clarke, Tom King and others, all part of a reasonable team to present at the electoral box office.

Until yesterday, Mrs Thatcher could appear to say of her fellow ministers, "Oh to hell with them: there are plenty more where they came from!" She cannot afford to say that now. They have to be persuaded to declare four square for her. For the first time in her political career, Mrs Thatcher needs her colleagues more than they need her.

COMRADES AGAIN

China's citizens are once again being greeted as "comrades" on state television, and exhorted by the *People's Daily* to address each other. The targets are not only words such as *xiaojie* - the Chinese word for "Miss" which the party organ condemns as having originally designated courtesans - but occupational titles. To refer to people as doctor, engineer or manager, thus recreating class distinctions, is once again antisocial. By contrast, the paper proclaims, "when the going gets tough, Comrade can bring you strength".

Whatever derision the appeal to good old revolutionary values arouses among most of the educated urban young, it will send shivers through those who can remember the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of 1966-76. For "revolutionary" they read "reaction": seeing this as the latest ploy in the bid by hardliners in the communist leadership to resurrect "class struggle" as an instrument of party control. If there is class struggle, it follows that there are enemies of the people.

Such public lessons in how to be truly reactionary disguise a hardfought battle behind the scenes between hardliners and reformers. Chinese communism has always harboured an intense anti-intellectualism which has sabotaged all efforts at economic reform. Each liberalisation has been followed by retribution: the Hundred Flowers movement of 1957 by the Great Leap Forward in 1958, the subsequent economic recovery by the Cultural Revolution's disastrous purges of "capitalist roaders", officials, teachers and managers.

The most perniciously durable of all Mao

Tseung's slogans has been "better Red than Expert", which provided party hardliners a one-line justification for refusing to give economists and managers the powers needed to make economic reforms work. For a decade Deng Xiaoping's celebrated assertion of his indifference to the colour of any cat that caught mice relegated ideology to secondary place behind technical competence. But now, the *People's Daily* is back to warning against "mixing up black and white in ideology". The colour of the cats matters again.

With China's economy in disastrous shape, its leaders are paralysed by dissent over the new five-year plan, due to start on January 1. The meeting to approve the plan of the party's central committee, first scheduled for October, has been repeatedly postponed. The prime minister, Li Peng, shows no sign of readiness to surrender party control over the economy and has even called for tighter central planning and a return to Maoist doctrines of national self-reliance, but the old guard is under fire. Directives issued in Peking are increasingly ignored by reformist provincial leaders.

In all this, the ordinary "comrades" are, as ever, unconsulted victims of ideological whim. Western governments have decided, for geopolitical reasons, to lift the sanctions imposed after Tiananmen Square. They should leave China's leaders in no doubt that their country remains a poor investment risk - and that the remedy lies not in returning to Maoist nostrums but in relaxing the political controls which have stifled individual talent.

LOCAL DEALS FOR NHS

Britain's outmoded and inflexible method of settling both public and private sector wage increases has been improved over the last few years, largely by moves away from national pay bargaining. Yesterday's launch of a pay unit in the National Health Service of a pay claim for national rises of up to 20 per cent this year indicates how far that drive for reform still has to go.

The NHS unions have a good case. Hospital workers are low paid, if not as low as their spokesmen say. The unions stress a basic pay of £100, though averages with overtime and bonuses are about £153. None the less pay has worsened over the last decade. Recent research carried out by Cambridge economists shows that the earnings of hospital porters and ward orderlies have deteriorated sharply over the past 10 years compared with those of unskilled workers as a whole. Their work is not greatly skilled, but no less important for that - doctors could not easily perform operations in safety if dirty theatres had not been cleaned.

The "supply-side" problem is not so much this year's deal, but the mechanism by which this year's deal is set. Many the pay of NHS ancillary workers have pay negotiations in the public sector have moved away from the lumbering formal settlements which characterised national pay settlements in the 1960s and 70s. In local bargaining in the closest parallel to government, probably has become much more the NHS, bargaining to employment conditions in each area. National bargaining still exists for central government's employees, operates for central government's servants now but the pay deals covering civil servants now provide for large degrees of flexibility. In the

private sector, too, change has been extensive, with the ending of national negotiations in the largest single-bargaining group covering the engineering industry. Not so yet in the NHS.

National bargaining offers some advantages to both sides. Central negotiation can help to keep down the overall cost of wage increases by avoiding the leap-frogging endemic in local bargaining and which is starting in local government. Employer solidarity can be used to curtail union solidarity. But the disadvantage is high. No account can be taken of regional differences in recruitment and retention of staff, nor to variations in living costs. National bargaining in the private sector can force employers to settle higher than they need. Centralised bargaining reinforces the trade unions and their national leaderships, regardless of membership strength.

The government can now change the way NHS pay is settled. The opting-out of hospitals will give local managements a greater degree of autonomy. Employees need not be disadvantaged. Hospital workers in London need not be dragged down by lower rates elsewhere. It may be tough on unions wedded to their centralised power but they must adapt or wither. They have survived with the move to local bargaining in the water industry, and have scored considerable successes in the campaign for shorter hours in the engineering industry, gains which would hardly have been won had national bargaining still been in place. Local pay bargaining in the NHS makes economic sense for workers and employers. The government should take its health service reforms this stage further.

Consequences of monetary union

From Professor William Letwin
Sir, What is the "tragedy" that resulted, according to Sir Geoffrey Howe (report, November 14), from Britain's not having joined ERM five years ago?

He might have meant that the tragedy consists of the present inflation (and consequent recession), which would have been avoided by earlier membership in ERM. He appears to have forgotten that from late 1985 onward, Mr Lawson deliberately "shadowed" the Deutschmark, so taking the UK into the ERM in all but name.

Far from preventing inflation in Britain, that policy and its concomitants tended to fuel it. That membership of ERM does not prevent inflation is evident from the fact that since 1979, when ERM began, not one of the member countries has been free of inflation. So if British inflation is the tragedy, Sir Geoffrey had better blame one Mr Lawson rather than Mrs Thatcher.

Perhaps, however, Sir Geoffrey meant that Mrs Thatcher's antipathy to European monetary union (and to ERM as a stage toward EMU) has kept Britain from exercising as much influence over EC policies as it should. Mrs Thatcher's reply has been that we should not join a club that would destroy Britain's monetary independence.

EMU's destination is a single currency controlled by a European central bank. Britain would have just as little power to control that bank as it has to control the common agricultural policy. German central bankers will control it, because their record in containing inflation has been good albeit imperfect. Nobody can guarantee that they and their successors will continue equally devoted to monetary stability or equally skilled in maintaining it.

Surrendering Britain's monetary independence to EMU may have consequences much more tragic for Britain than any that would result from staying outside of EMU for the time being at least. Sir Geoffrey's lament was full of passion but devoid of reflection. His unsubstantiated attack may produce tragic results for his party and his country if it were to help stampede the UK into EMU.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM LETWIN,
15 Arlington Road, NW1,
November 15.

From Sir James Goldsmith
Sir, The present debate about the single currency obscures an urgent requirement. We must create an alternative reserve currency to replace the dollar, should it continue its decline and lose its credibility. When sterling abandoned its world role, the dollar was ready to replace it. Today, nothing has been prepared and in adverse circumstances this could lead to turmoil.

Surfspeak

From Mr B. K. Levy
Sir, In Philip Howard's interesting essay (November 16) into the mutant aspects of surfing language, he misses out a vital link between the Japanese etymology of *tsunami* and its emergence in surfspeak.

The word was used, first by Japanese scientists and then (and now) by others studying seismological phenomena as a term to replace the misused tidal wave - the vast wave which is observed to follow undersea earthquakes or eruptions.

Surely it is this scientific term which the surfer has called to describe his big wave.

Yours etc,
B. K. LEVY,
9 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
November 16.

Traffic and shopping

From Mr Harry Shepherd

Sir, No group of retailers is more aware of the problems of traffic, dirt, pollution and the necessity for a transport policy than members of the Oxford Street Association. The writer of your leader on Christmas shopping (November 6) seems unaware that Oxford Street, the busiest shopping street in the world, which contributed over £700 million in foreign currency to the Exchequer in 1989, is traversed at peak by no fewer than 250 buses and 750 taxis every hour. One bus breakdown, or a student demo, and London is paralysed.

My colleagues and I, together with the London Tourist Board and other interested parties, have met with the secretary of state. We

Boring tunnels

From Professor Emeritus O. A. W. Dilke

Sir, Not all ancient tunnels were as trouble-free as Euphrosia's (Professor Martin F. Smith, November 13). An inscription of about AD 150 from Saldae, Mauretania, reads rather differently. The local council, no doubt, hoping for a cheap job with slave labour, had a tunnel for an aqueduct dug through a hill from both sides. The diggers failed to meet.

A specialist in aqueduct survey, Nonius Datus, had to be called in. He found that each side had veered to the right. He made a section, very likely using Hero of Alexandria's construction based on similar triangles, which was submitted to the governor. On the basis of this they dug again and were successful.

The costs must have been vastly

هكذا من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opposition to export of live horses

From the Chief Executive of the British Horse Society

Sir, Your report (November 6) that opposition to the attempts by Mr Ray MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, to abolish the ban on the export of live horses and ponies "accounts for more than half of the letters sent each week to the agriculture ministry and rural MPs". I am told that the ministry has never experienced so large a correspondence on any one topic.

Let me assure Mr MacSharry that the strength of this opposition will be maintained. The British Horse Society has discussed the matter with our own agriculture ministry, the Commission, representatives of the European Council of Ministers, Irish parliamentarians, other members of the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in Brussels, and with local councils and welfare organisations in this country. In all our discussions we have received strong moral support for the retention by the UK of its system of exporting carcasses only.

In January this year the European parliament passed 49 amendments to the Commission's transport and minimum values regulations, under which the lifting of the ban is proposed; the Commission accepted eight of these. We also hope that the Commission will authorise member states to adopt specific measures to safeguard the welfare of equidae (horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules) intended for slaughter.

Lobbying will not move merely to the European parliament, as predicted by Mr MacSharry, Britain's junior agriculture minister. British animal-lovers will continue to press for action in this country and, under the chairmanship of Harry Greenway, MP, leading UK horse-welfare organisations are requesting support for two early-day motions during the current parliament.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. S. EASTWOOD,
Chief Executive,
The British Horse Society,
British Equestrian Centre,
Stoneleigh,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire,
November 15.

From the Chairman of Council of the RSPCA
Sir, The editorial, "A regrettable advertisement", in Saturday's *Times* (November 17) regretted your newspaper's decision to publish the RSPCA's dead pony advertisement on November 15. I believe that you have no cause for regret.

Most advertising uses symbolic imagery. The pony in our advertisement was slaughtered at a British abattoir for shipment to the EC. It was shown hanging head upwards to enable instant recognition. The reality of it hanging inverted with its throat slit rendered it difficult to recognise and was arguably even more distressing.

The RSPCA has always stated

that this image was symbolic. Indeed the other adverts which support this campaign show similarly stylised images with which the Advertising Standards Authority have no objection, as was the case with the RSPCA's dead dog mountain.

The ASA unilaterally banned the dead pony picture acting under two sections of their code. The first allows such action against an advertisement "which may reasonably be expected to be found objectionable by a significant number of those likely to see their advertisement", yet by their own admission it was banned before they had received a single complaint.

The second, dealing with distress, permits such advertising tactics "only in circumstances in which the seriousness and importance of the subject matter unarguably warrant such an approach". The RSPCA believes that the untold suffering of over 750,000 sheep and calves shipped live from Britain to the Continent and the prospect of horses joining this trade certainly qualify. We resent the implication that we were "merely in pursuit of an attempt to attract attention or to shock".

The public's support for the RSPCA campaign has been overwhelming. We will continue with this battle against the live transport to Europe of animals for slaughter.

Yours etc,
JOAN S. FELTHOUSE,
Chairman of Council,
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
Causway,
Horsham, West Sussex,
November 20.

From the Editor of Horse and Hound

Sir, Your report (November 14) on the RSPCA's advertisement campaign on the export of live horses states that *Horse and Hound* declined to publish their illustration of the dead pony on a book with our news report, implying that the decision was made on policy grounds. In fact the report arrived in our office just before we went to press and there was no room for the illustration.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CLAYTON, Editor,
Horse and Hound,
Room 2105,
King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, SE1,
November 14.

From Mrs Magda le Duc
Sir, The hypocrisy of the Advertising Standards Authority stuns me. Has it ever condemned the equally horrifying charity advertisements of third world human misery which appear regularly, and rightly so, in various outlets of the media?

Yours faithfully,
MAGDA le DUC,
86 Sheen Park,
Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey,
November 16.

Sent to try us

From Mr Russell Middleton
Sir, The question raised (November 20) by Mr Peter Turner - is there anything more exasperating than wiring a 13-amp plug? - is another example of our whingeing, privileged society. Does he not know that in some countries appliances are sold complete with plugs? This is a denial of a person's right (and pleasure) to spend many happy hours wiring, sometimes, correctly, his newly acquired chattels.

We should thank, not be critical of, the authorities which allow such freedom.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL MIDDLETON,
4 Ludbrook Square, W11.

From Mr J. A. J. Berry
Sir, Mr Turner is right. Wiring a 13-amp plug in the UK still requires two different-sized screws, drivers and a pair of scissors, not to mention a memory which can cope with the sense of logic which says that earth is not brown but yellow, and live is not blue, but brown.

Unless we move towards all electrical goods being provided with a factory-fitted plug, an altogether safer proposition, the man who invents a simple-to-fit plug will have the electrical equivalent of a better mousetrap on his hands.

Yours,
JAMIE BERRY,
Gowan House,
71 Gowan Avenue, SW6.

From Mr Nicolas Mynett
Sir, More exasperating? Finding it does not work once you have wired it. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
NICOLAS MYNETT,
Temple House, Showe, Buckingham.

From Lady Brabazon
Sir, Puncturing a newly-repaired inner-tube with the lever as one finally gets the last section of the bicycle tyre back over the rim.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET BRABAZON,
35 Cloocurry Street, SW6.

From Mr Harley Nott
Sir, Wrestling with two or more wire coat-hangers.

Yours, in a tangle,
HARLEY NOTT,
17 Upper Tooting Park, SW17.

From Mr J. P. N. Lowe
Sir, Tying a bow tie.
Yours faithfully,
J. P. N. LOWE,
70 Littlebury Road,
Clapham, SW4.

Mental illness care

From the Chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners

Sir, Following the letter from the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (November 8) we would like to emphasise the importance of treating mental illness, especially depression, which is a common medical problem affecting as many as 15 per cent of elderly people. Patients should be treated promptly and skilfully, normally within the privacy of their own general practice.

We welcome a ringfenced grant for mental illness, but the government's definition of patients who will be eligible for it restricts benefit to those "accepted by the specialist psychiatric services".

This may exclude some of those with great needs. At a time when general practitioners treat over 90 per cent of patients who suffer from depression we believe that the definition of eligibility should be related to need and not to the kind of doctor providing the treatment.

It is efficient for patients, general practitioners, and specialists if referrals are made just for access for grants. The Royal College of General Practitioners calls for an urgent review of both the funds available for grants for mental illness and the rules of eligibility for them.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS PEREIRA GRAY,
Chairman of Council,
Royal College of General Practitioners,
14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, SW7,
November 17.

discussed the obvious requirement for a traffic strategy for London.

Over the past 30 years solutions have been suggested which became unacceptable because there is no possible strategy that does not contain a disincentive for some group, somewhere. That is why, with the local elections then pending, Westminster City Hall ignored its own proposals in 1986 for improvements to the Oxford Street environment. Currently the government is certainly in no mood to upset anybody. Therefore it does nothing and upsets everybody.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SHEPHERD (Director),
The Oxford Street Association,
Essex House,
16-19 Eastcastle Street, W1.

From Professor the Reverend Canon J. R. Porter

Sir, There is a precedent for the feat of the Channel tunnel engineers even earlier than that of Euphrosia. This is the so-called Tunnel of Hezekiah in Jerusalem

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which, unlike the work of Euphrosia, is still in existence and can be walked through with a powerful torch.

It was constructed in the reign of King Hezekiah (714-686 BC) to safeguard the city's water supply and is some 1,749 feet long. The workmen were so proud of their achievement that they set up an inscription, now in Istanbul, to record their feat.

This tells how two teams of workers started at each end of the tunnel and finally broke through together in the middle - "on the day of boring through, the miners struck, each in the direction of his fellow, pick against pick, and the water started flowing from the source to the pool".

Yours faithfully,
J. R. PORTER,
36 Theberton Street,
Barnsbury, N1,
November 13.

The ads are the best bit

Commercial addicts are in for an eight-hour treat

For people who actually enjoy advertisements, there is an overdose in store in London at the beginning of next month, when the Odeon cinema in Leicester Square screens an all-night show of eight hours of commercials, 500 of them from 45 countries.

In France, where the show, *La Nuit des Publicités* (The Night of the Ad Eaters), originated, it is presented annually to audiences of dedicated fans who join in the jingles and shout out the slogans. To increase the carnival atmosphere, balloons and whistles are given out at the door. Whether British audiences will respond with such fervour, despite the gift of a bag of popcorn, remains to be seen.

The *Night of the Ad Eaters* is the creation of Jean Marie Boursicot, a Frenchman who started to collect pieces of film as a child, when a projectionist gave him a clip from an advertisement for ice-cream.

Since then, he has begged or bought more than 350,000 advertisements from all over the world, from which he has compiled his epic. He attends every show.

In France there is a Publivore Club, the members of which keep M Boursicot in touch with what they think of the shows. A particular favourite is an Ariel soap powder commercial in which a "housewife" is asked whether she would change her packet of Ariel for two of an ordinary powder. The audience drowns out her reply, screaming "We want Ariel!" When a French chocolate pudding ad suggests that everyone who likes Danette please rise, everyone is on their feet. There were letters of complaint one year when he omitted a perennial favourite, African Bob, who drives his little Fiat across the desert to howls of amusement.

As well as the amusement value, M Boursicot sees some sociological significance in his work. The evolution of styles and social attitudes, as well as national differences, is highlighted by looking at one company's advertisements over several decades.

A selection of Levi jeans advertisements show how much even a classic garment can change, a hilarious favourite being the flares of the early Seventies worn with platform shoes. "When you are in the cinema and you pay to see advertisements, if it is not good, you can take revenge," M Boursicot says.

LAURIS MORGAN-GRIFFITHS
 © Night of the Ad Eaters, Odeon Leicester Square, London, December 1 (21.50). Doors open 11.15pm, show starts at midnight (071-379 4444).

Tremors in the literary bedrock

A wind of change is ruffling feathers at the *Times Literary Supplement*, as the new chief executive and even newer editor plan a modest relaunch. Sean French reports

When Henry Fairlie wrote his famous article about the Establishment in the *Spectator* in 1955, he identified it as including not only the prime minister, but also "such lesser mortals as the chairman of the Arts Council, the director general of the BBC, and even the editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*". But the Establishment is not the protected species it once was. In the current issue of *Oxford Today*, Jeremy Treglown, the editor of the *TLS*, replies to the question of what it is like working for Rupert Murdoch: "We're left very much to ourselves. Despite the fact that he's a populist and we're highbrow, and that he's on the right and we're notably pluralist, he never interferes with editorial policy and he underwrites our losses - if there are any."

The message seems not to have reached Michael Hoy, News International's newly appointed chief executive of Times Supplements Ltd. By the time Mr Treglown's interview was being pushed through the letterboxes of the Oxford graduates who make up the magazine's readership, he had been briskly fired, after eight years as editor. There were stirrings of protest, but the literary world moves at a brontosaurus pace, and the revolution was disarmed before it had begun by the appointment of Ferdinand Mount, the journalist, critic, and one-time head of Mrs Thatcher's Policy Unit (he wrote her 1983 election manifesto).

Ever since it was founded in 1905, the *TLS* has been an easy target to attack. Its long-standing policy of running unsigned reviews (ended only in 1974 by John Gross) was meant to convey disinterested authority, but became notorious as a means of furthering private academic feuds. To an anti-establishment literary critic such as F.R. Leavis, the paper represented everything that was corrupt about the metropolitan literary clique. But members of the metropolitan literary clique attacked it for being over-academic. In Clive James's cruel words: "A don can make it into the *TLS* if he is one of the only two authorities on Punic zinc-smelting, and the

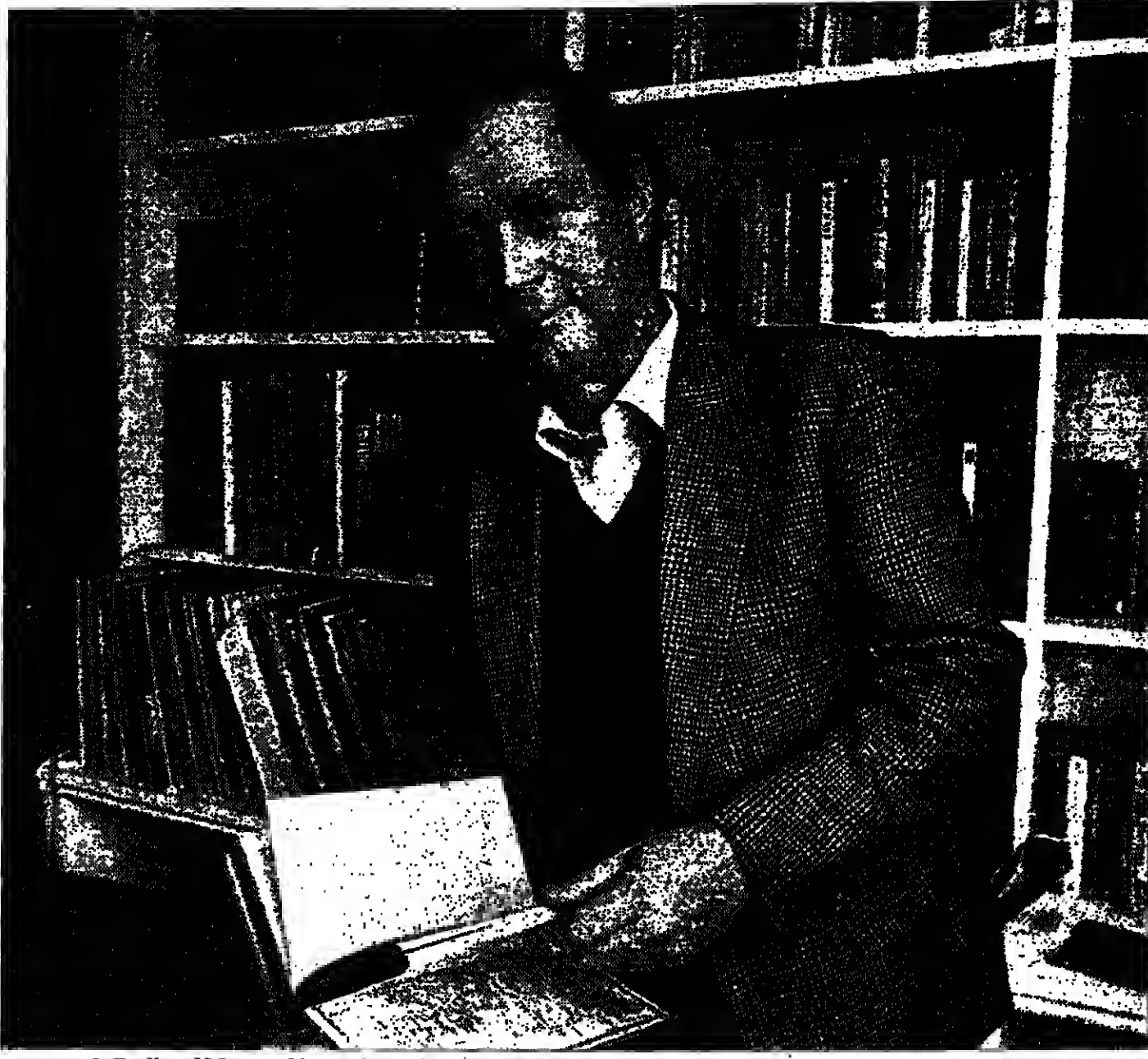
other has just written a book."

The *London Review of Books* tends to be more highly praised by literary cognoscenti, but its task is easier. The *LRB*'s circulation at about 18,000 is smaller, and it is Arts Council grant-aided. The *TLS* appears fortnightly, publishing 15 or so reviews an issue. The *TLS* publishes more than 40 every week. The risk is dullness, although ironically the paper has generally been considered more enlightening in the past year. The *TLS* really goes wrong when it is diverted from its principal function. Its attempt last year to produce a collaborative European literary magazine was a flop. The weekly two-page list of titles of books received is a waste of space. And nobody expects the magazine's Commentary section, containing reviews of the other arts, to survive long under Mr Mount's regime.

The paper's numerous staff - with whom I worked briefly and happily in the mid-eighties - have been a byword in the literary world for their amiable eccentricity. A couple of years ago the paper convined in this view of itself by submitting to a *Tatler* profile in which staff members portrayed one another as variously layabouts, gossipers and bon vivants spending their days phoning friends.

In fact the staff form a distinguished, if somewhat raffish, literary band, including the novelist Alan Hollinghurst, the poet Alan Jenkins, and the travel writers Redmond O'Hanlon and John Ryle. Much good work is published. But there is an unquestionable sense of malaise, inside the paper as well as out. It is not just that it loses money, but that it has slipped out of the mainstream of intellectual debate. The paper has a limited potential readership, of course. The vast majority of newspaper buyers would not be interested in a paper reviewing more than 40 books a week, however well it is edited and written. Nevertheless, although limited, the potential readership is international, and much larger than the 26,000 copies to which the paper has slipped.

Mr Hoy, the man with the responsibility for turning the paper around, makes the traditional commercial noises,



By the book: Ferdinand Mount, taking on the *TLS* with "guarantees of independence that have descended on my shoulders like dandruff"

insisting that "nobody should be expected to pay for the privilege of running a publication". But, offered a choice between cutting costs and raising circulation, he chooses the latter, and insists it will be achieved without going down-market: "There's room at the top end of the market for a paper like the *TLS* to flourish," he says. "It is a newspaper of international appeal which has edged into being a paper written by academics for academics. It should be a paper by intellectuals for an intelligent reader."

Mr Hoy is positively foyish in his defence of serious literary values; and insists there is no time limit. "No one's ever going

to make a lot of money from this paper," he says. But not all is sweetness and light. Using the now compulsory, it seems, cricketer metaphor, he says of Mr Treglown that he had "had a fair innings. I don't see the editorship as a lifetime appointment." Shortly after this interview, he sent three other senior executives back to the pavilion. But there have been no complaints about the appointment of Mr Mount as editor, a formidable literary man, a highbrow and a respectably maverick Tory. His own Establishment credentials seem unimpeachable. Aged 51, married with three children, he is the heir to a baronetcy and

was educated at Eton and Christ Church. But he also writes critically acclaimed novels, and has contributed to *Mixxism Today*. Mr Mount denies that he has formulated any coherent plans at all. "I don't want to tamper with the bedrock virtues - the comprehensive coverage, the adventurousness, the readiness to cover any book, no matter how obscure or difficult." Most importantly, though, he sees the paper as a natural forum for many of the major debates of the day, including Islam and eastern Europe. There is no question that he is his own man, and he talks cheerfully of "the guarantees of independence that have de-

scended on my shoulders like dandruff."

The immediate planned change is to relaunch the *TLS* in tabloid format, making it possible to print on the Wapping presses, and perhaps giving it a sort of continental seriousness. For the rest, nothing spectacular should be feared or hoped for. Famous literary magazines have generally been financial catastrophes. If the *TLS* can increase its influence among an educated elite, sell a few more copies and break even, it will be a remarkable achievement. Expecting to grow rich from it would be like entering an iceberg for a powerboat race.

BBC BBC BBC

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This way to the green grass

From the lawyer who wants to see her name in lights outside the Streatham Odeon, to the company accountant who is looking for wider horizons, Jo Ouston helps professionals off their career plateaux. William Greaves reports

ELAINE Donnelly seemed to have life pretty well worked out. Born within the sound of the roars emanating from Anfield, Liverpool Football Club's ground, she had gained an honours degree in law from the London School of Economics and was enjoying all the security and respectability that goes with a senior post in the Lord Chancellor's department. She was just into her forties and earning a good salary.

There was only one problem. What she really wanted to be was a film producer.

Simply another dissatisfied soul who would forever gaze wistfully in the direction of greener grass? Not at all. Miss Donnelly had merely identified herself as one of thousands of British workers who have arrived at an impasse in their careers.

They know they have more to offer — but they are in the wrong place for anyone to hear them. They are well enough regarded and their job is not threatened, but they feel ensnared by their own moderate success. In the inebriated — and almost unrepeatable — jargon of the commercial psychologist, they are plateaued.

That was when Miss Donnelly, at the age of 44, went to see Jo Ouston. Objective, optimistic and reassuringly straightforward, Miss Ouston is not one to accord herself any pretensions title. With apparent reluctance, she settles for career management consultant. But that is only because there was no ready-made job description to be found in the dictionary. "I'm not a headhunter, I'm not really involved in outplacement, and I don't like the word counsellor," she says. "Counselling implies that someone is looking for something remedial. These are not problem people, and they are not short of potential — it is just that it needs releasing."

Miss Ouston ran the careers advisory service for the British Institute of Management, but left to set up her own firm, Jo Ouston and Co, when she discovered that companies had one great advantage over the people who worked for them. Whereas employers had a wealth of specialists to turn to when they wanted to mould their people into career patterns, their employees had no such mentors available. Now a steady stream of men and women come to her office in southwest London to take part in career workshops and to find a new impetus.

"People can tumble into careers because it was expected of them, and then wake up at 40 and say 'What the hell am I doing here?'. And yet their job may not be nearly as far removed from what they want as they suppose it is," Miss Ouston says. "There may be the perfect job

for them within their present firm or, if not, a small readjustment may be all that is necessary. There is no need to throw the baby out with the bath water when all you really want is perhaps a bigger bath, or more water."

"A company accountant, for example, may discover that what he always wanted to be was a jazz musician, and decide that now is the time to do something about it. Does he jack everything in and buy a trumpet? Wouldn't it be better to become an accountant in the entertainment industry, and see what the view looks like from there?"

If the rest of the world takes us at our own estimation, Miss Ouston's job is to make sure that it receives the best possible picture. "If I have a frustrating time in the office here and bite the head off the bus conductor on the way home, what he sees is not a woman who has had a bad day at work but an old bat," she says.

"So when a man comes to me and says that he thinks he is being held back because his colleagues regard him as being rather fierce and unapproachable, he is probably only irritable because his job does not demand from him a 100 per cent commitment. He is locked into a vicious circle. He is not getting on because of the image he presents, but the image he presents is conditioned by the fact that he is not getting on. After all, if we are cold we might look miserable. But we are not miserable — we are just cold."

Miss Donnelly was not exactly miserable. She simply knew that it was time to change direction. "When I left school I knew I wanted to produce films, but I also knew that I had to support myself," she says. "So I am afraid I chickened out. But more than 20 years later I had this impulse that I wanted to see a film of my own up there in lights at the Streatham Odeon. Other people would have their sights set on Leicester Square, but Streatham was good enough for me."

She took the first step by herself, joined the National Film and Television School, and financed her student fees by accepting every court appearance as a lawyer that she was offered. At school, Miss Donnelly produced a fiction film and two others with animation. But she has no delusions about what lies ahead in the real world.

"One of these days I am going to have to talk somebody into parting with £2 million, and to do that I have got to inspire trust. I knew that I had a tendency to be too diffident, so I went on a five-day course with Jo Ouston. A series of specialists taught me how to speak, what to speak about, and what techniques I could use to improve my voice. I was taught to be the fool as well as



Pointing the way to new futures: Jo Ouston says "a small job readjustment may be all that is necessary"

the king, and already I can tell the difference. I present a case much better than I did a year ago and, more as a test than anything else, I went off by myself to Cannes to an international television and film convention and made some valuable contacts, which I could never have done before.

"I don't know how it will end but I have no regrets. I couldn't have spent the rest of my life wondering what would have happened if only I had had the guts to give it a try — and at least I know I will live rich, even if I don't die rich."

Miss Ouston's clients may share a feeling that their job has stagnated, but few other factors unite them. Charles Roberts, for instance, is an accountant, aged 43, who entered the profession for three years, then joined his family's business in 1973, but left it again nine years later. After "a number of dead ends", he became the financial accountant, reporting to the chief accountant, of a telecommunications company which grew from 450 to 1,500 employees in the four years he was there. He left earlier this year.

"I was earning in the order of £23,000, which is quite low for an accountant in a growth industry, and I was getting nowhere in a dead-end situation," he says. "I knew I had more to offer, but there was some sort of locked-up potential

"These are not problem people, and they are not short of potential — it is just that it needs releasing"

which I couldn't put my finger on. I knew of Jo Ouston when she was with the BIM, and decided it was time I went to see her."

After two explorative sessions, Mr Roberts enrolled for two one-day workshops, the first with a transpersonal psychologist, who offered guidance on all aspects of personality, and the second to develop "personal presence". "The original plan was to follow this up with a concentrated job search," he says, "but I decided not to go ahead with this second stage. The courses helped me so much that I knew I had to be more positive."

"With 1992 coming up, I decided to embark on an intensive period of language learning, which includes courses at Southampton university doing European studies, with a view

to finding work with a commercial organisation which has a European outlook — not just as an exporter, but as someone who is looking at the wider market. There are so many accountants coming up that I knew that, with no particular speciality to offer, there was nothing to be gained by going immediately into another job."

Although both Miss Donnelly and Mr Roberts admitted that they were confronted by "middle-age crisis", not all Miss Ouston's clients are at that stage of life. Sonia Welch, aged 30, was, until recently, acting co-ordinator of the Angel Drugs Project in Islington, north London. "I was mainly there to give out information, advice and counselling to addicts," she says.

"But I decided I was ready for a move. I wanted to go outside the voluntary sector, become self-employed, and take what skills I had into the workplace — a practice which is well established in the United States, but has not really got going over here. As well as helping me clarify my own thoughts, Jo put me in touch with all kinds of people with useful contacts, and I am now working at a rehabilitation drug unit in London."

"I am only in a transitional period, of course, but I know I am going in the right direction."

Players in the fiddle market

Is a Stradivarius violin an instrument of music or investment? The answer lies in two imminent London auctions

The world record price for a violin could be shattered twice during the next two days in London, sending a seismic tremor across the highly strung fretwork of fiddle society.

More than £500,000 could be called at Christie's today for a 1720 Stradivarius known as the Mendelssohn, owned for most of its existence by descendants of the great composer. Tomorrow Sotheby's expects bids of up to £1 million for a 1703 Strad called the Dancia, after a minor French virtuoso who was its most celebrated owner.

The mellifluous sound-boxes of Cremona were within the financial reach of most good soloists until well into this century. About 340 Stradivarius violins — as well as 50 cellos and ten violas — have survived two centuries of turmoil, selfishness and skulduggery, but their relative scarcity does not account for a suddenly inflated value.

"In general, the sterling prices of top musical instruments have gone up 80 or 90 times since 1960," says Charles Beare, of the Soho string specialists, J. & A. Beare. "Thirty years ago, the Japanese weren't interested in western classical music. Now they are — passionately."

With Strads starting to look gilt-edged, the interest may be speculative rather than artistic. The spectre of priceless instruments locked away in a safe haunts orchestral musicians. Their nightmare vision has a Freudian subtext: not only is the object of desire held captive by a faceless ogre, but it is wasting away for want of physical love. Unless it is played regularly, a Strad is supposed to deteriorate. "I was always told it would go off if it was not kept in use," reports a retired player.

Mr Beare rejects this as a double myth. "What affects Strads is not lack of use, but being played by people who do not know how to look after them at the right temperature and humidity. There is no investment money in violins, and no violins in musty vaults." Most Strad owners, he maintains, are wealthy amateurs or semi-pros who take out their prized possession to play with friends.

Such father-figures as Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Isaac Stern lend their spare fiddles to protégés until they can buy one. A loan fund, run from the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and headed by the Prince of Wales, offers small amounts to young players to buy a decent instrument, but its entire outlay over ten years amounts to just over £1.1 million — barely enough for two top-flight Strads.

There is no shortage yet of Stradivarius violins at leading dealers. Much, however, hangs on the outcome of this week's two sales. If either fiddle fails to sell in a recessionary climate, performers can breathe a sigh of relief. If, on the other hand, the million-pound mark is reached or breached, more fine fiddles will vanish into private collections, out of reach of all but a handful of jet-set artists.

A Hong Kong banker once collected 25 Strads as a hedge against inflation, but even he tried to play them all. The Dancia is being sold by a Manchester musician and industrialist, Jim Reno, who gave up playing in 1972 after a coronary thrombosis. He is donating the proceeds to the Withington hospital. The Mendelssohn has been owned, and played, for the past 35 years by an anonymous American amateur, who is now selling it on behalf of Jewish causes.

Nevertheless, once sold at auction, instruments often disappear for a generation or more. The record-holding Marie Hall Strad violin, sold in 1988 at Sotheby's for \$475,000, has not been heard since in a concert hall.

Mr Reno offered to lend his Strad to competent performers, but found they could not afford the insurance. At a special rate, and with a further discount for Musicians' Union members, it still costs a player £3,375 in annual premiums to cover a borrowed Strad. The reluctance of owners to release their precious instruments was fortified by the disaster that befell a British quartet leader who, mounting a concert platform, fell and seriously damaged his borrowed Strad.

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Oasis of hope in a barren land

A one-woman helpline for the infertile has been a huge — but limited — success

IN SPITE of scientific advances, there is still widespread ignorance about infertility treatment — as couples desperate to have a baby often discover. A helpline launched four months ago to offer information and counselling is already overloaded, according to the National Association for the Childless (NAC). In the first four weeks British Telecom monitored 2,150 calls to the helpline, of which only about 400 were able to get through. The service is on to its fifth answering machine: the first four broke down under the pressure.

Donna Rees, aged 29, a former midwife and sister in an infertility clinic, handles the calls alone, five days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and has been confronted by 35 messages waiting for her to deal with when she arrives at her Birmingham office. A call can last as long as an hour.

The main problem for the majority of callers is the length of time they have been getting the same treatment with no result and no new suggestions of what they might do next. Ms Rees says, "Regularly a woman will tell me about difficult treatment over a number of years, and when I ask what treatment her husband has had she tells me he has never even been seen."

Ten per cent of calls are from men ringing up about their own fertility, another 10 per cent from men anxious to give their partners support. As well as giving callers counselling, the NAC helpline, which is being funded for a year by a drug company

which markets fertility drugs, offers an independent information service. Jonathan Hearn, the spokesman for the NAC, says: "Complaints are surfacing about the attitude and knowledge of fertility clinics, both NHS and private. We feel as if we are failing because we can only cope with 10 per cent of enquiries."

The NAC has a comprehensive reference library, and Ms Rees can advise callers on new treatments, and which hospitals or clinics provide what. There is, for example, an IVF project in Liverpool where a central laboratory has been set up to service all the district hospitals in the area.

"Another example is the trial with human growth hormones which may help women who fail to respond to ovulation," Ms Rees says, but adds that she tells women only about trials which are looking for volunteers.

ANOTHER problem which crops up frequently is money. A single IVF attempt can cost £2,000, and there is no guarantee of success. Ms Rees explains: "Some clinics advertise a higher success rate than average, which is between 10 and 15 per cent. But some call fertilising an egg a success. Some call a positive blood test a success. But many will not result in a baby."

"I tell couples to make sure they know what the price includes, because although there are a lot of people doing a lot of good work, infertile couples are open to exploitation."

HEATHER KIRBY

& BRIEFLY

Words of wisdom

WHICH famous women said: "One of the things that politics has taught me is that men are not a reasoned or reasonable sex". "The easiest way to convince my kids that they don't really need something to get it for them" and "I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end"? The answers are Margaret Thatcher, Joan Collins and Margaret Thatcher. These and other gems attributed to famous females past and present — on life, love, children and politics — are collected in *Women in Quotes* (Lentis, £4.95), which would make an ideal stocking-filler for feminists and misogynists alike.

Decade of gems

PALOMA PICASSO'S tenth anniversary of designing jewellery for Tiffany & Co will be celebrated with a collection of ten dramatic suites of gold and gemstones that go on display — and sale — from Monday. Morganite, peridot and kunzite (named after Dr George Kunz, the turn-of-the-century Tiffany vice-president) are combined with diamonds and pearls in Picasso settings that include the signature X.

Gadgets galore

THE Sharper Image is the ultimate yuppie catalogue in the United States, offering electronic gimmicks and gadgetry such as police radar detectors (a must where the roads are wide and straight and the speed limit 55 mph), indoor barbecues and cordless, infrared headphones. The current catalogue's greatest gimmick is antique Coca-

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Quacking idea

FINDING a portable hair-dryer that leaves both hands free for drying and styling the hair is difficult. Clairo's Duck 'n' Dry is one of the few that does: it stands up firmly on its big, bright duck feet and blows hot air through its beak. Silly looking, perhaps, but great for serious hairdressing. It costs about £20 from Currys and other stockists.

Indian winter

THE long-anticipated Indian gallery opens at the Victoria & Albert museum on Friday. A new line of merchandise inspired by the collection, including stationery and ceramics, has been added to the museum shop. The Nehru Gallery of Indian Art is housed in a setting meant to be evocative of the courts of Mogul palaces, with a colonnade of treasures. These include a rare picture of a turkey, painted in 1612. There will be special talks and other activities, such as learning Indian crafts and how to create and wear a sari. For details write to the Box Office (India), Victoria & Albert museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL.

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Did anybody listen to the leaders?

Charles Wintour assesses the influence of the press on the Tory leadership challenge

On Monday, John Biffen, the former cabinet minister, said: "This has been a television election." Since he was appearing on a television programme when he said it, the remark appeared to go unchallenged. In fact, it seems highly unlikely that the tiny electorate, which has been described as "the most sophisticated" and "the most dishonest" in the world (both could be true), has paid totally differential attention to media opinion of any variety.

The 372 voters divided themselves into three camps from the start. There were the loyalists, probably the biggest group, who were the disaffected who rallied around Michael Heseltine; and there were the undecided, not more than 70 individuals, who could swing the election. One of these, Emma Nicholson, MP for Devon West and Torridge, has revealed that she changed her mind about Mrs Thatcher over the course of the past 12 months. Two factors weighing with her were the poll tax and the effect of the business rate in her constituency. She also reckoned that three-quarters of her constituents believed it was time for a change. So neither television nor the newspapers seem to have influenced that particular voter. No doubt others found a decisive factor in the weight of loyalist opinion in their constituency.

In fact, so far as the press was

concerned, the quality papers were far from unanimous. Before the start the *Independent* opposed Mrs Thatcher, while the *Daily Telegraph* gave her full support. As expected, the *Guardian* opposed Mrs Thatcher, but *The Times*, while scrupulously neutral in its news coverage and letters columns, delayed until the day of the election before declaring strongly for her. The *Financial Times*, in a classic piece of fence-sitting, stated that Mr Heseltine was "not the right choice" but also that "the post-Thatcher era needs to arrive soon".

A new aspect of election opinion was the divisions within the same stable. The *Mail on Sunday* wanted change; the *Daily Mail* did not. The *Sunday Times* reluctantly moved away from Mrs Thatcher to Mr Heseltine; *The Times* stayed loyal. The current crop of press "barons" appear more relaxed about editorial independence than some of their predecessors, but, of course, no one was advocating a vote for Labour at this stage. (And only Lord Wyatt of Westford was saying that if Mrs Thatcher was not leading the Conservatives at the next election "I would advise my millions of *News of the World* readers to vote for Mr Kimock". He did not explain why, or, indeed, say what effect he thought this advice might have.)

The television screen has been carrying a horrifying amount of



election material. When overlaid with political propaganda in a newspaper the reader can always skip to something more entertaining, such as the fact that *The Times* wine correspondent regards a Safeway Beaujolais nouveau as "stunning" and puts it top of her list, while the *Sunday Correspondent's* expert regards the same wine as "banana essence" and put it bottom of his list. In terms of moving pictures, Mr Heseltine has undoubtedly scored because he is always on the move, usually from one television studio to the other. Mrs Thatcher, on the other hand,

has been showing that business continues as usual. For example, after telling reporters at our Paris embassy that she believed she would still be in Downing Street at the end of the week "and a little bit longer than that", she suddenly remembered that Douglas Hurd was by her side and asked him if he wanted to add anything about the conference, meanwhile unconcernedly looking at her watch. Perhaps it was for such reasons that one observer suggested that Mr Heseltine had the better of "the campaign", even if he lacked the votes to bring success.

It remains doubtful whether the 70 waverers were influenced either by television images or newspaper interviews. One factor alone must have helped Mr Heseltine — and that was common both to newspapers and television. It was the constant message from the opinion polls that Mr Heseltine would have a powerful effect in restoring the Conservative share of the vote at a general election. It is true that most polls showed a revival in Conservative fortunes anyway, but news about the Labour party has been virtually obliterated by the leadership con-

test and such indications must be regarded as suspect. For the *Daily Telegraph*, the true-blue Tory paper, on the very day of the vote, to carry on its front page a Gallup poll suggesting that some 20 per cent of the national electorate would consider switching to the Conservatives if the party had a new leader, may well have been the most powerful piece of propaganda produced by either side. But for this sophisticated (or dishonest) group of voters, ballot secrecy will ensure that we never know how some of them voted, let alone quite why.

But he claims that, after two issues, it sells 40,000 copies in Anglophone Africa and is "breaking even".

Mr Newhouse is adamant that no loss-making ventures will be supported: "We get our grant-in-aid for broadcasting, not publishing." Lack of sales has forced the World Service to reassess its participation in *Newspack*, a series of ring-bound booklets on current world topics launched during the summer. Originally aimed at journalists, now they are likely to be marketed more to businessmen. Optimistically, the World Service has signed an eight-year contract with Broadside Books for its new literary venture, Mr Newhouse says the financial risk is with the publisher.

ANDREW LYCETT

Calling the world — in print

The BBC World Service is spreading its net to include book publishing

distribution costs in the Far East, the magazine, with boosted editorial content, is printed in Singapore as well as London. Over the past three years, *Huma London*, the BBC Arabic Service's programme, has been similarly transformed. It sells 50,000 copies a month, at prices ranging from 15p in Egypt to £1 in

richer Gulf countries. The Gulf tensions have cut advertising revenue, but boosted sales. Ken Whittingham, the World Service's Arabic publications manager, says the last issue sold 12,053 copies in Saudi Arabia, making it the biggest selling foreign magazine in the country. He has recently launched a series of Arabic books, *Huma London Library*. *Focus on Africa*, the BBC Africa Service's most influential programme, gave its name to a full-colour quarterly magazine this year. The operation is run on a shoestring, with *Focus's* senior producer, Robin White, doubling as

realising it can make itself more attractive to its government funders if it is seen to generate some revenue.

BBC English has always been in a class on its own, amassing worldwide sales of £25 million a year for its educational books, tapes and videos. Now new commercial criteria are being applied to other long-standing World Service publications. Until a decade ago, *London Calling*, its monthly programme guide, was purely promotional. Increased postal costs plunged it £200,000 into the red in 1981-82. Now 20,000 subscribers pay £12.50 for a year's copies. To cut

MEDIA WATCH

New view from left

SOCIALIST, a fortnightly tabloid newspaper which promises "to inform, not preach", is being launched by an umbrella group of socialist activists, including the Campaign group of left-wing Labour MPs. Ten thousand copies of the pilot issue, which offers "news, information and culture rather than the traditional lectures and jargon of left publications", have been distributed to Labour party members, trade unionists, environmentalists, women's organisations and other campaigning groups. The paper, which follows the launch by the Communist party of the tabloid *Changes*, starts regular publication next March.

Beyond compare

SOME of Britain's best-known television commercials, banned in many other European countries on the grounds that they favourably compare their products with rival brands, may soon be allowed throughout the European Community, if the Advertising Association gets its way. The British advertising trade body is pressuring the European Commission, now drafting its directive on advertising, to ensure that "comparative ads" are not banned in Britain or the rest of the EC. "Press and television codes of practice in the UK ensure that any claim is substantiated, and that denigration of the competitor is avoided," says Angela Mills, the Advertising Association's director of special issues. "Comparative ads will encourage competition, benefit consumers and improve the free market in Europe."

Green beam

GREENSAT, a collective satellite television group which provides specialist environmental, New Age and Third World development programmes free to cable operators on the Continent, Africa and the United States, is applying to the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to broadcast on one of the BSB Marco Polo satellite channels soon to be created by the merged British Sky Broadcasting, Greensat, which broadcasts "unashamedly intellectual" programmes for two-and-a-half hours a week on the Olympus satellite, wants the IBA to let it use one of the BSB channels for free as it is "a public service broadcaster". "We are not a campaigner; we are a forum for discussion. Our intention is to advance the international debate," says George Rumens, Greensat's only full-time worker.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Flash with this month's 6 per cent increase in its government funding, and enjoying the consensus that it has been doing a good job, the BBC World Service is diversifying into book publishing.

Tomorrow it launches its first two titles: *The Best of From Our Own Correspondent 1989-90*, based on the long-running foreign affairs programme which also goes out on Radio 4, and *They Made Our World*, a series of profiles of scientists and inventors broadcast earlier this year.

"Where we can exploit our product commercially, we'll do it," says Ernest Newhouse, the World Service's chief accountant, who has been overseeing new ventures. Under John Tuse, its energetic managing director, the World Service is

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- (d) At least 10 years experience in conducting and preferably, music composition.
- (e) Experience of artistic direction and administration in a professional orchestra.

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- (d) To convene and/or attend meetings of working committees appointed by the Urban Council relating to the Orchestra.
- (e) To attend auditions and interviews for the recruitment and promotion of members of the Orchestra.
- (f) To provide training for members of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra with a view to improving the quality and standard of the Orchestra.

The successful candidate is expected to commence work in mid-1991.

Interested candidates should forward personal data and full details of previous experience no later than 21st December 1990 to:

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Headquarters
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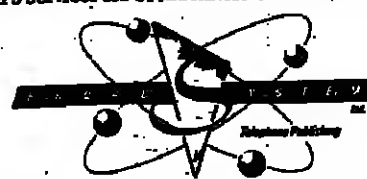
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Barber a cut above the rest

OPERA Il barbiere di Siviglia Covent Garden

THE Royal Opera's plan to follow Agnes Baltsa's mezzo Rosina in *The Barber*, reviewed a fortnight ago, with one in the soprano register was scuppered when Edita Gruberova withdrew from the cast last weekend. Della Jones stepped in and so Rosina remained very much a mezzo.

On Monday for much of the first act there was the feel of the reserve team taking the field. Gone was the sparring between those two masters of Italian comedy, Gabriel Bacquier and Ruggero Raimondi as Don Basilio and Basilio. Eric Garret took teetering little steps across the stage as a Bartolo racked with arthritis and possibly worse, but the voice had uncharacteristically dry patches in the aria. Alexander Morozov, latest in a long and distinguished line of Russian Basilius, had no such vocal problems — his bass is huge — but like some of his fellow countrymen he mangled the words and with them the jokes.

All the humour was left to another Russian, the baritone Vladimir Chernov, in a five-star house debut as Figaro. Chernov's progress has been charted here from his performances with the

Kirov, both in Leningrad and during their London visit, and with Scottish Opera in *Forza*. The voice is now resplendent and brimming with confidence. Seville's barber, played with the arm and ankle movements of a *commedia dell'arte* Harlequin, is a Cheeky Chappie and something more besides. Chernov, who performs with the swagger if not the height of the young Sherrill Milnes, makes it clear that Figaro is the man who oils the wheels as well as trims the wigs in Seville.

It is scarcely surprising that American houses, including The Met, have been fast to sign him up. Covent Garden should insist on an early return, preferably in Verdi.

Possibly inspired by Chernov, the British team showed better form in Act II. Justin Lavender, who had made a wretched start with "Ecco niente", displayed an agile, lightish tenor and engaging humour as Almaviva. Della Jones, too, shone in her opening scene, injected some bite into Rosina in "Contra un cor". Gillian Knight put much feeling into Berna's little lament about the lot of old maids who have to tidy up the mess left behind by the likes of counts and barbers. Gabriele Ferro conducted a persuasive storm.

But there is no doubt about who gets things moving in Seville this time round. Vladimir Chernov.

JOHN HIGGINS



Brimming with confidence: Vladimir Chernov as Figaro

CONCERT LS/Zagrossek Queen Elizabeth Hall

WITH its financial future now apparently assured, the London Sinfonietta was in much better shape on Monday than a fortnight ago. Or maybe it was just that Lothar Zagrossek was conducting. The performances he elicited of two contrasting Weber scores, the tenuous Five Pieces and the tightly knotted Concerto, were

exceptionally fine, with all the problems of blending, balance and interplay between instruments beautifully resolved. Each movement thus became a whole thing, a continuous if fugitive or varied piece of musical substance, and not just a chain of unanswered questions.

Offering these early 20th-century classics along with two other pairs of dissimilar works was intelligent programming. Pieces by Xenakis provided the concert's frame, with new scores by Franco Donatoni and H.K. Gruber within. The Donatoni was *Cliches*, for

two pianos with percussion, woodwind octet and, ultimately, the promised bells: a work of characteristically brittle sound and stammering rhythm, losing its weird isolation only in the Messiaen-like wind writing, which in this performance was a little wobbly in ensemble.

Gruber's piece was a single-movement Cello Concerto, keenly played by Christopher van Kampen, but curiously featureless. A mildly pleasant piece with mild pleasures. Like other Viennese contemporaries, Gruber is an artist of irony, but here the genre's

ghosts of soulfulness and dexterity are too weakly evoked for their undercutting to have much in the way of force.

Force there was in plenty, though, in the Xenakis pieces. Timothy Liles was the impressive soloist in *Exchange*, for bass clarinet and ensemble, and there was a strong closing performance of *Jalons*, a hot and clamorous score for 15 players sounding like a full orchestra. It is good to know that there will be more evenings like this.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE Swan Lake Sadler's Wells

WHEN this production by the Moscow Classical Ballet was seen in Britain two years ago, it was on larger stages but still looked cramped. How much more so at Sadler's Wells, even though Tim Goodchild's decor has been cut back more than somewhat.

However, the stage must not take too much of the blame for a lacklustre opening night. The production itself is neither very good nor very bad: it has some good touches but rather more silly ones. Much depends on how well it is danced, and although the corps de ballet is no better than humdrum, the casts had the benefit of their last visit of coaching from distinguished veterans borrowed from the Bolshoi Ballet. There is no longer much sign of them remembering those lessons.

Vera Timashova's playing of the double-barrelled ballerina role has lost its allure, apart from some exceptionally fast *fouettés*. Alexander Gorbachevich (who missed appearing here before because of injury) proves to be a stodgy Siegfried; he fails to display any

great conviction in his acting.

As before, the national dances are better done than the classical scenes. The Mazurka and the Spanish dance in particular go with much flair. Even young Vladimir Malakhov, remembered as the company's best male dancer, looks more at ease in the lively Venetian dance than in the would-be courtly *pas de trois*, but some of the blame must go to an inferior arrangement of the latter. The Russian dance, too, is a disappointment in choreography and performance; the music calls for something much more subtle.

Among various innovations which may give unintended amusement to hardened swan spotters, the sight of the villain Rothbart scaring the living daylight out of his hostess as an implausible way of persuading her that their children should marry, is specially recommended, as is the all-purpose conclusion where the principals die, one after the other, on the slightest pretext, but the swan chorus enjoy a happy ending.

The 38-strong London Gala Orchestra, presumably does its best with Vladimir Rylkov's sometimes eccentric view of Tchaikovsky's tempo. The season runs until Saturday with varying casts.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK Depeche Mode Wembley Arena

IF THEIR name means anything at all, it says that fashions hurry by. Yet Depeche Mode are themselves the exception that proves the rule. Geographically they may hail from Basildon but musically they have put down their roots in that little corner of pop history which is forever outer space, also known as 1981.

The set design for their live show, apparently supplied by the construction arm of the Lego corporation, made a good fist of carbon-dating the band. A backdrop of three socialist realist pyramids made up of grey

brezeblocks and illuminated pillars were sometimes obscured by two screens onto which were projected video images of standard low-rent pretentiousness. If any era had a copyright on this genre of cool Fritz Lang presentation, it was the one that spawned so-called New Romanticism.

Depeche Mode reconstruct a thin slice of the past with machine precision, mainly because they have machines to help them. If it were not that he was evidently a ghost inside one of said machines, the drummer would have to be marked down as the hard worker in the band.

The pre-programmed percussion track was so keen to get on with the show that it inconsiderately cut short the audience's participation in "Everything Counts", moving swiftly on to the

THEATRE Peaches Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

SOME plays are stinkier because a promising idea is reduced to scraps by an author's poor craft. Others get nowhere because the initial idea is rubbish. Worst of all is a play like this one, written by Elisabeth Bond and directed by Peter Wade for all it is worth — that is, without tension or charm. This kind of play has no discernible idea yet two hours of precious life are wasted while we scan the stage, sift the dialogue, straining to catch some lifeline of a meaning.

We are to 16th-century Venice, a setting that invariably spells disaster for the modern playwright. A grubby prostitute is sketching a grubby portrait for his Virgin and Child. The pious English ambassador is flung into prison by a half-dressed cardinal who orders the prostitute to infect him with the pox. Infect the ambassador, that is, the cardinal has the pox already, as well as a horribly mad nephew and a fear of hell-fire. To avoid the latter he has the ambassador publicly bludgeoned so as to provide the painter with a

pory, eyeless heretic to include in his juicy religious mural.

The painter, it seems, can only paint what he sees. Do not ask how he managed to see the Madonna in a tart: he stands for The Artist Who Must Speak The Truth. The tart goes mad and the ambassador goes a-begging with his plight "a nice little earner". I forget what happened to the nephew but the kitchen maid's cat's kittens are all drowned. Yes, even the ginger one.

Fleeting, the play hints that literacy is good for you (the ambassador teaches the servants to read). Another notion, that Artists Must Be Respected, is scuppered by the painter's silliness. The characters snarl, they spit, they peel potatoes, look through telescopes and count banknotes. Perhaps this is England under another name.

A programme note reveals that this mess was conceived as part of a larger play introducing Oliver Cromwell and Charles Darwin. At least we have been spared that.

I do not think the cast of this touring production would wish to be identified. In his cell the ambassador asks: "Why, oh why did I ever come here?" Yes, indeed.

JEREMY KINGSTON

introductory thrashes of "Master and Servant".

Thus was terminated one of the show's brief forays into postmodernism. With three of the band members parked onstage behind banks of keyboards, the job of our looking like a computer operative fell solely to Dave Gahan, who took to the task with much vocal moaning and droning, camp gyrations and heavy-metal mike-stand manipulation. With almost everything else about the show being so studiously mechanistic, it came as a surprise when he saw fit to towel himself down.

A genuine instrument, it should be reported, was sighted during songwriter Martin Gore's acoustic interlude. One sensed that he made too much of the moment, plucking aggressively at his guitar almost as if to let the audience

know that it really was him pulling the strings.

He stepped forward again in "Enjoy the Silence", one of a clutch of lugubrious songs the band performed from the new album *Violator* (the best of which was the high-octane "Personal Jesus"). Tantalising us with the futuristic remoteness of a bona fide solo, he opted instead to treat his curvaceous instrument as a dance partner.

To some this may have looked distinctly like a failure of nerve. But to most members of a full house high on the excitement improbably whipped up by Depeche Mode's identikit brand of electro-pop, the symbolism of the moment would not have counted for much.

JASPER REES

NEW RELEASES

CRIMINAL MIND (18) Meticulous thriller about a smart attorney entangled in the case of a notorious physician. From performance (C) Warner Home Video, but the script is by the late director, John Dahl. Warner Home Video (071 232 5500).
 A DARKMAN (15) Lyle Newell as a lawyer who is transformed into a creature with a dark, evil side. Warner Home Video (071 232 5500).
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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

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WORD-WATCHING

ANORAK (n) Campy slang of the Eighties for an unfashionable, stodgy, or tedious person, usually a young male. "An anorak is one of those boring gals who sit at the front of every lecture with their fringe jumpers asking the lecturer their clever questions."

SHANNY (n) The smooth, creamy, bluish, related to the slang, often obscure, yarell's British slang. "The Shanny or Smooth Shanny."

RANE (n) Balance for a crowded, bustling, chaotic, hectic social environment. Rane is a primary social virtue, as opposed to Western independence. The Rane has a sense of humour about their blivie appearance in life. Rane is a social virtue, as opposed to Western independence. The Rane has a sense of humour about their blivie appearance in life. Rane is a social virtue, as opposed to Western independence. The Rane has a sense of humour about their blivie appearance in life.

TOISE (n) An old French linear measure = 6.395 feet, from the Latin *toise*, measure to stretch. Bygone. "The column order'd on the assent sacre pass'd beyond the Russian batteries a few toises."

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 8.00 8.30 9.00 9.30 10.00 10.30 11.00 11.30 12.00 12.30 13.00 13.30 14.00 14.30 15.00 15.30 16.00 16.30 17.00 17.30 18.00 18.30 19.00 19.30 20.00 20.30 21.00 21.30 22.00 22.30 23.00 23.30 24.00 24.30 25.00 25.30 26.00 26.30 27.00 27.30 28.00 28.30 29.00 29.30 30.00 30.30 31.00 31.30 32.00 32.30 33.00 33.30 34.00 34.30 35.00 35.30 36.00 36.30 37.00 37.30 38.00 38.30 39.00 39.30 40.00 40.30 41.00 41.30 42.00 42.30 43.00 43.30 44.00 44.30 45.00 45.30 46.00 46.30 47.00 47.30 48.00 48.30 49.00 49.30 50.00 50.30 51.00 51.30 52.00 52.30 53.00 53.30 54.00 54.30 55.00 55.30 56.00 56.30 57.00 57.30 58.00 58.30 59.00 59.30 60.00 60.30 61.00 61.30 62.00 62.30 63.00 63.30 64.00 64.30 65.00 65.30 66.00 66.30 67.00 67.30 68.00 68.30 69.00 69.30 70.00 70.30 71.00 71.30 72.00 72.30 73.00 73.30 74.00 74.30 75.00 75.30 76.00 76.30 77.00 77.30 78.00 78.30 79.00 79.30 80.00 80.30 81.00 81.30 82.00 82.30 83.00 83.30 84.00 84.30 85.00 85.30 86.00 86.30 87.00 87.30 88.00 88.30 89.00 89.30 90.00 90.30 91.00 91.30 92.00 92.30 93.00 93.30 94.00 94.30 95.00 95.30 96.00 96.30 97.00 97.30 98.00 98.30 99.00 99.30 100.00 100.30 101.00 101.30 102.00 102.30 103.00 103.30 104.00 104.30 105.00 105.30 106.00 106.30 107.00 107.30 108.00 108.30 109.00 109.30 110.00 110.30 111.00 111.30 112.00 112.30 113.00 113.30 114.00 114.30 115.00 115.30 116.00 116.30 117.00 117.30 118.00 118.30 119.00 119.30 120.00 120.30 121.00 121.30 122.00 122.30 123.00 123.30 124.00 124.30 125.00 125.30 126.00 126.30 127.00 127.30 128.00 128.30 129.00 129.30 130.00 130.30 131.00 131.30 132.00 132.30 133.00 133.30 134.00 134.30 135.00 135.30 136.00 136.30 137.00 137.30 138.00 138.30 139.00 139.30 140.00 140.30 141.00 14



Vivid examples of Scottish creativity in science and art: J.E. Lander's "James Watt and the Steam Engine" and (below) Eduardo Paolozzi's "His Majesty the Wheel"

Five millennia of tartan myths

Andrew Gibbon Williams discovers a sturdy celebration of Scottish history and art at Glasgow's latest exhibition, *Scotland Creates*

The City of Culture's exhibition programme has been nothing if not ambitious. Until now, Glasgow's Glasgow, a trawled, jumbled, day-out-for-the-kids affair — had been the most depressing instance of curatorial *folie de grandeur*. Its scope, if not its scale, however, was modest compared with *Scotland Creates*. Five millennia of a nation's culture constitute a tall order to appraise in exhibition form.

When the ultimate European accolade was bestowed upon "the dear green place" on the Clyde, professional eyebrows were raised in that other cultural place over on the Forth. In the event, however, Edinburgh decided to be big about the inferred slight and for *Scotland Creates* the national treasure houses sited in the capital have been denuded of their Scottish gems, and several specialists from the National Galleries and Museums have contributed worthy essays to the fine book which accompanies the exhibition.

A chronological survey of such a vast period would have been absurd and tedious, so the organisers have plumped for the thematic options art and artefacts are assembled under banners such as "Kingdom and Kirk" and "Land of Adam" in an attempt, one assumes, to construct an image of Scotland's past rather than teach a lesson. This was sensible. The country's history as reflected in its products is so bound up with myths, coloured by fantasy and distorted by misconception, that any step-by-step guide would defy normal logic.

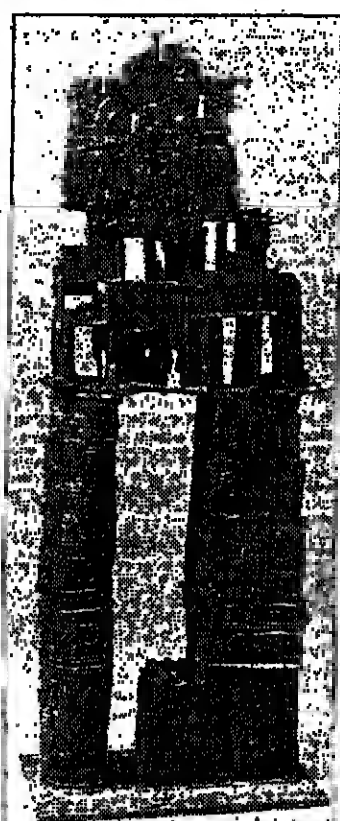
Because of its political absorption and military subjugation by England, Scotland is an immensely confused country; mostly

English speaking but with a heritage richer and more influential than many Scandinavian or continental countries. And the man who petrified that cultural confusion in the national consciousness was Sir Walter Scott. It was Scott who reinvented his country's known history, filtering it through his own romantic sensibility, impressing his stamp on it to such a degree that even today it is difficult not to view Scottish modernism as a reaction against his version of events.

The crux of the show is rightly the section dubbed "Scott Creates". Here, one literally comes face to face with the Laird of Abbotsford: a giant mask has been constructed and, inside the roomy skull cavity, Scott memorabilia (first editions and such like, borrowed from his baronial pile on the Tweed) have been laid out.

The rest of the room is bedecked by a host of 19th-century Scottish masterpieces, most owing much to Scott's inspiration. Henry Raeburn's portrait, "MacDonnell of Glenangary", the model for Scott's Highland chief in *The Heart of Mid-Lothian*, dominates, but there is also David Wilkie at his early genre best in the "Penny Wedding" and a glut of history pictures typified by James Drummond's "Porteous' Mob", a historical recreation of the riotous reaction to Queen Anne's strictures on her rebellious northern capital.

Presumably because of the abundance of material available from the age of the Scottish Enlightenment, *Scotland Creates*



is heavily weighted towards the 18th century. In the Adam section the castellated facade of the architect's Seton Castle — Robert in his more nostalgic, Scottish mode rather than Classical — has been somewhat ludicrously mocked up to house volumes of Adam *père's* *Vitruvius Scotticus* and a tome of his son's own more influential designs.

Alongside, Allan Ramsay (Robert's Grand Tour travelling companion, doyen of the Enlightenment and arguably Scotland's greatest portraitist) is represented by his polished full-length of the young Lord Mount Stuart and his stunning, pretty picture of the second Mrs Ramsay.

The strain of earlier romanticism detectable here is emphasised in a separate display dedicated to Alexander Runciman's destroyed Ossian cycle. The Celtic bard, Ossian, and his fabled poems were frauds so cleverly perpetrated by the 18th-century poet James Macpherson that the entire intelligentsia of Europe was taken in. In a way he can be seen as symbolic of the dubious, mythic national identity which took root in Scotland after the Act of Union and the debacle of Jacobitism. Scots may have been created, but Ramsay (George III's preferred painter), Adam and his ilk were all North Britons to a man and Scott the highest of High Tories.

Curiously centre-stage at the McLaren is "The Art of Constructing a Past", in which the creators of *Scotland Creates* themselves attempt to weave a myth around Scotland's prehistory. An "interpretation" of the extraordinary diary found at Skara Brae, Orkney (Hanna Barbera's Flintstones were not too wide of the mark) and a half-circle of Celtic crosses are backed up by the Celtic-inspired prints of contemporary painter Kate Whiteford, a tacky grotto realised by the photographer Ron O'Donnell, and a totemic sculpture derived from a Mackintosh chair.

The point of this is obscure, the element of fun inappropriate, but what is certain is that the modern concept of "art" and "design" would have been as incomprehensible as that of "Scottishness" itself to the ancient folk who ground the bone necklaces in the Orkneys. Likewise, the medieval metalworkers, responsible for the maces and croziers which are one of the glories of this show, saw themselves as part of an international creative brotherhood.

Ironically, in view of Glasgow's *raison d'être*, industrial design is given short shrift. Fortunately, however, in the 19th-century Scotland's painters frequently used the country's great scientific discoveries as subject matter: a particularly fine example is Lander's painting, "James Watt and the Steam Engine". Nevertheless, an encounter with a reconstructed section of the Forth Rail Bridge, this year enjoying its centenary, is one of the most memorable single experiences of the show. The Glasgow School, boys and girls, the Scottish Colourists and modern painters are all included but they have all been honoured this year elsewhere in Glasgow, so a sense of *déjà vu* is inevitable.

The question that all this begs is: who is such a show aimed at? For the connoisseur with the right background, it is an enjoyable romp. Perhaps the curious child will be stimulated by the whimsical displays. But for the Texan tourist — he the City of Culture hopes to attract — for whom Scotland means golf, tartan, haggis, Pringle and the Famous Grouse, it will be a perplexing experience.

Scotland Creates is at the McLaren Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 331 1854) until April 1.

'It's up to me to bang the gong'

Sir Peter Hall, 60 tomorrow, intends to go on and on. Interview by Benedict Nightingale

Despite tomorrow's birthday, Peter Hall is thinking of slowing down or retiring about as seriously as the Thames contemplates stopping at Greenwich rather than continuing to the sea. "No fear," says the Old Man River of the British theatre. "If you have a job you have a passion for, you don't want to take it easy. I hope to keep on in the playhouse. In the 1950s I was the youngest director, so maybe one day I'll be the oldest."

He created the Royal Shakespeare Company, he established the National Theatre in its South Bank home, and now he is on the bridge of his Peter Hall Company, charting the way ahead as he turns the wheel. An unnamed Shakespeare play and Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tattoo*, with Jube Walters, will be staged by him at the Playhouse after his revival of Pinter's *Homecoming*, which opens at the Comedy in January.

After that, who knows? Almost certainly, a new American play about Goering with the German actor Klaus Maria Brandauer. Maybe Alex Jennings in Shaw's *Man and Superman*, Vanessa Redgrave and her daughter Natasha Richardson in Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*, and Richardson as Rosalind in *As You Like It*. Hall's hopes of bringing Sean Connery on stage as Ibsen's Master Builder, and getting Paul Scofield to update his celebrated Lear, seem more tenuous.

In its two-year existence, Hall's company has been more successful on than off the stage. Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman went from London to New York with his productions of, respectively, *Orpheus Descending* and *Merchant of Venice*. His *Wild Duck* may become a film on television, as *Orpheus* did in America. The problem has not been attracting talent, but finding a base in the West End. Plays planned for the Haymarket ended at the Phoenix, leaving Hall feeling like "a bobbing cork going wherever happened to be available."

"There is a hard-core audience for classic revivals or serious new plays of about 40,000 or 50,000 people," he says. "I want them to know my address. I want to give a medium-sized theatre, maybe the Playhouse, a policy and an identity. Then it's up to me to bang the gong and build some solid support."

Gong-banging is even more vital in the commercial than in the subsidised sector. Two flops in succession, and Hall's company might well fold. "I can't take these same risks," says Hall. "I have always asked myself 'what is the must-see quality of this play?' But now the must-see quality has to be much more immediate. There needs to be something or someone, a Dustin, Vanessa or Brandauer."

Yet already there has been an interesting exception to this rule. A relatively unglamorous *Wild Duck* actually turned a profit.

Why? Well, one reason was surely a production that answered those who complain that the Peter Hall Company is not an ensemble or even truly a company. An ad-hoc cast looked as if it had been together for years.

Hall agrees, modestly crediting the British theatre itself. "It is a permanent company of 800 or 900 first-class actors, who seem all to have worked with each other. If you cast a play well, you'll often find on the first day of rehearsal there's 400 or 500 years of shared experience there. There's a *lingua franca*, a trust."

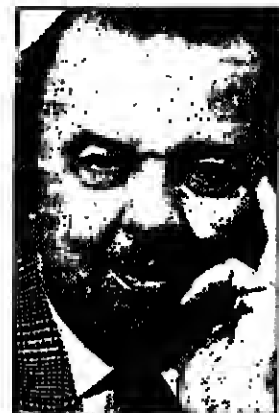
In his view, this derives from the work of the RSC, the National and the reps. That makes him impatient with any suggestion that his company's success proves that good theatre does not need subsidy. "Absolutely the reverse," he says. "I am living on the 35 years I spent in the subsidised sector. On the actors, writers, and audience we created."

Indeed, he is still the Peter Hall who spent his last years at the National denouncing the government for failing to subsidise the theatre at continental levels. "I've been accused of whingeing, complaining, carrying on, and I'll do so as long as they go on breaking their promise, which was that sponsorship was for experiment and enterprise, and central grants would not be reduced."

Insufficient subsidy, he says, has dispatched Peter Brook to Paris, sent many a promising playwright to television, shrunk casts and seasons, and made it tough to stage or see Shakespeare. This last is a particular sorrow. "It's a reason for my chief worry about the theatre, which is that the craft of playing Shakespeare is diminishing. Actors no longer grow up with him. You can't do Shakespeare now without first spending at least two weeks teaching them the ABC where you breathe, how you parse and phrase him."

Hall's departure from Glyndebourne will not stop him staging the odd opera. *Peter Grimes* in Munich and *La Bohème* in Los Angeles are in prospect. He also hopes to direct original movies as well as films of his company's plays. David Edgar's adaptation of George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss* is a possibility, as is the story of Caruso and his two opera-singer mistresses — "the Pygmalion tale in reverse."

But the theatre will remain the centre of Hall's sixties. Asked if he could ever renounce it, he becomes as emphatic as Lear. "Never, never, never, never," he says. "Not for anything. Because of the joy of rehearsing, the communal sense of discovery. People say, the theatre's so old-fashioned, so clumsy. I say, give me six actors, three days and a room, and I'll create something which could fire your imagination. Give me three days on a film set, and I'll have 15 bits of jigsaw puzzle. Good, but out the same."



BRIEFING

Harmonious exchange

ORCHESTRAL history is made in Leningrad tonight, when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra embarks on its first-ever tour of Eastern Europe. The New York Philharmonic toured the Soviet Union three decades ago under Bernstein, and in recent years a number of American orchestras have made the long trek east: but Chicago — one of the world's highest-paid orchestras — has so far declined to visit the spartan hotels east of Berlin.

The Russian concert, under Sir Georg Solti, are part of an exchange: at the same time the Leningrad Philharmonic, under Yuri Temirkanov, will be performing in Chicago. Later the Chicago players and Solti move on to Moscow, Budapest and Vienna. Solti has, appropriately enough for

a Hungarian emigré, programmed an all-Bartók concert for his triumphant return to Budapest.

Moving pictures

DULL it isn't as location manager of Bruce Willis's latest film, an action adventure called *Hudson Hawk*. Problems with logistics, officialdom and fate have pushed the lavish production five weeks behind schedule and millions of dollars over budget — adding a conservative estimate of \$12 million on to a film already costing \$40 million. The Vatican denied the film-makers permission to film St Peter's Basilica and director Michael Lehman had to find a poor substitute in a countryside castle. Shifting to Prague, Lehman arranged to shoot in Wenceslas Square, where political demonstrators promptly marched through. Lehman finally tried Budapest, filming in sets originally built in Britain and laboriously shipped to Hungary. He is in



Willis: scouting Europe

Budapest still, frantically shooting six days a week, in an effort to finish by November 30.

All going nuts

THERE will be a surfeit of Sugar Plum Fairies in Britain this Christmas: all three of the country's top ballet companies will be offering *The Nutcracker* as their holiday season fare. Leading the way is English National Ballet, which has been performing Tchaikovsky's popular classic at Festival Hall for the past 33 years; this year, it will present 31 performances of Peter Schaufuss's eccentric version. At Covent Garden, *The Nutcracker* returns after an absence of four years with 17 performances of Peter Wright's nostalgic production, and in the Midlands, Wright is working on yet another *Nutcracker* for his own Birmingham Royal Ballet. All cracking good shows, no doubt.

Last chance

JOSEPH Oppenheimer (1876-1966) had studios in both New York and London by 1900 and continued working until he died at the age of 90. His best pictures combine an Expressionist strength of colour with an Impressionist delicacy of tone. A dashing portrait painter, he also excelled at landscapes and flower pieces. A retrospective of his work, with 100 exhibits on show, finishes today at St James's Art Group, 91 Jermyn St, London SW1 (071-321 0233).

TELEVISION

Maze of contradiction

FEW journalists have done more than Peter Taylor to bring to television documentaries the realities rather than the rhetoric of Northern Ireland. His Inside Story Special entitled "The Maze — Enemies Within" (BBC 1), was characteristically cool and collected. For that reason, it will have infuriated several million viewers.

The Maze is what used to be called Long Kesh: the 14-block prison where loyalists and republicans are housed within separate wings to live out sentences that, in one case, amounted on paper to a total of 410 years. Asked what he had done to achieve this remarkable total, the prisoner catalogued three murders, a manslaughter, arms offences, conspiracy and several attempted murders. After 13 years in the Maze, he now gets three days in summer to visit his family and six at Christmas. He is beginning to come around to thinking that there should be some kind of a compromise settlement, and his wife has no plans for remarriage. He is also on a committee which sits regularly to decide on behalf of prisoners whether they are getting adequately sized sausage rolls and proper facilities with which to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne.

The Maze has come a long way since hunger strikers smeared its cell walls with excrement and Bobby Sands died as a newly elected Westminster MP. Several of its prisoners are now studying Open University courses and four have already graduated with honours. Nearly 400 men are locked up there, all convicted of terrorist offences and most serving life sentences for murder.

Prison officers accept that if they take discipline too far they will themselves end up with a bullet in the head and the prisoners are therefore allowed their own organisations. They, as well as their jailers, have their own commanding officer, and a man in charge of welfare and family visits.

"If I go too far, there will be retribution, even a killing. It is all highly controlled. I would not live long if I broke the rules." This was not a prisoner talking about other prisoners, but one of the guards talking about his own life. Taylor's film, directed by Steve Hewlett, was at its best when illustrating such paradoxes. The Maze is not just a prison: it is a socialised, collective, a highly organised, closed community with its own shops, sports fixtures and classrooms. University courses most favoured are in politics, economics and the Irish language.

As a result, the cells are still remarkably active. Although the outside world may (even in Belfast) be moving into the 21st century, in prison time has stood still for two decades, and maybe 300 years before that. These men do not mind being called murderers, but do not much care for the label psychotic. Republicans and loyalists alike are locked in with no certainty of a release date, but regularly reviewed by committees to decide if they might ever again be fit for freedom.

The contradiction is that the longer they stay locked together in their own political and prison cells, the less likely they are to come to any other view of the Irish world than that which first put them into this fortress. Hence the decision to let them briefly out into a family life where, with a little luck, they may one day not be treated as the heroes they still consider themselves to be.

Taylor's film in its own uncritical but observant way found the beginnings of a kind of regret from one or two of those under arrest. But how long, oh Lord, how long? If a man can be serving 400 years, he perhaps can reckon his politics on a similar time-frame. The rest of us would rather not wait that long for an end to the killings which were chillingly echoed from recent news bulletins over the closing captions.

SHERIDAN MORLEY



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Moscow jolts Nato with low arms figures

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

AMERICAN arms experts have cancelled a trip to Moscow amid suspicions about new Soviet figures on tanks and artillery in Europe. The cancellation comes only a day after the signing of the Conventional Arms in Europe (CFE) treaty.

Washington says the experts, who were hoping to check recent weapon withdrawals east of the Ural mountains, need more time to evaluate the figures.

Nato arms control negotiators had been expecting revised figures from Moscow in time for the signing of the treaty in Paris on Monday. It had been clear for some time that the Russians had been moving large numbers of tanks and artillery out of the area covered by the treaty.

When Washington first raised this with Moscow, an American team was invited to go to the Soviet Union to assess the data as a way of reassuring America that the Russians were not trying to build up a new strategic force outside the treaty area. Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, also pressed his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to explain the withdrawals.

According to sources, the Americans were to have flown out on Sunday, the same day the Soviet negotiators at the CFE talks in Vienna presented the latest data on the categories of equipment covered by the treaty.

The figure that caused greatest surprise was 13,828 artillery pieces. Nato's assessment of Soviet artillery stocks in the treaty area, west of the Urals, was 18,000. That figure was published only last week.

The reduced figure means the Russians will have to destroy only 653 artillery pieces, instead of the 4,825 expected by the West. Under an agreement with its East European allies, the Soviet Union is allowed to have 13,175 artillery pieces in the area west of the Urals.

A diplomatic source said: "The Russians talk about converting arms systems. But while you can convert tanks for civilian use, it's difficult to think what you can do with artillery, unless as a part of a circus."

Washington decided to postpone the trip to Moscow, to evaluate the new figures. The figure for tanks was 20,694. In January 1989, the Russians said they had 42,000 tanks in the region. This summer it had dropped to 24,000. The new figure means the Russians will have to destroy 7,544 tanks.

Diplomats say it is easier to explain the drop in the number of tanks. President Gorbachev had announced in his United Nations speech in December 1988 that he planned to withdraw 10,000 tanks from eastern Europe. These tanks have been relocated east of the Urals.

But, discounting the 10,000,

that leaves more than 12,000 tanks that have been withdrawn from the treaty area. The Russians have told the West what they plan to do with the 20,000-odd tanks that were listed as CFE-related last year but which have now been wiped off the list: 8,000 will be converted or destroyed, 4,000 have already been written off as scrap and 8,000 are to replace older tanks in Soviet Asia.

A source said: "We haven't accused the Russians of breaching the spirit of the CFE treaty because we can't. First of all, the treaty won't be in force for several months (because it has to be ratified) and, second, for 40 years, we have been calling on the Soviets to withdraw their tanks from central Europe. Now they have done it, we can hardly complain." The Russians, however, are aware that unless they satisfy the Americans over the large stocks of tanks and other equipment building up east of the Urals, the CFE treaty will run into difficulties with the American Senate, which has to ratify it.

The latest Soviet figures on other arms categories are 1,330 helicopters and 6,445 aircraft, which are also lower than Nato's estimates of 1,500 Soviet helicopters and 6,700 aircraft.

Under a separate declaration, each alliance has agreed not to exceed 430 land-based naval aircraft, with no single country allowed more than 400. Since the Soviet Union claims it has exactly 400 such aircraft, none will have to be scrapped.

Thatcher pledges to fight on

Continued from page 1

Norman Tebbit, the former party chairman, described her vote of 55 per cent as a "cracking" result, but David Waddington, the home secretary, said he was very disappointed.

Mr Baker was also disappointed that there had not been an outright result. "For this to go on for another week is unsettling. So I am looking for a speedy resolution," he said. Asked on *Channel 4 News* if the time had now come for Mrs Thatcher to bow out with dignity, he said there was no question of her resigning.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said: "Mrs Thatcher will be in the second ballot. No minister will run against her. She got many more than the next candidate. She must be well-placed to win."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Mrs Thatcher now leads a faction, not a party. The Conservative party is in disarray, at war with itself."



Raising the arms question: President Gorbachev quenches his thirst at the Paris conference

Tough year to decide Tory fate

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE next 12 months will test the diplomatic and political skills of the occupant of 10 Downing Street in a way that could determine whether the Conservatives win a fourth term.

Next month, two inter-governmental conferences open in Rome to chart the future of the European Community and both have the potential to trigger deep divisions within the Conservative party.

The conferences will be on European political union and economic and monetary union. The meetings will flesh out the declarations agreed by 11 of the EC leaders at last month's Rome summit. That ended with Margaret Thatcher isolated, and her subsequent Commons statement to be the catalyst for Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation and the leadership contest.

Against Mrs Thatcher's wishes, the 11 other heads of government agreed to begin the second stage of economic and monetary union in 1994. She was also alone in expressing reservations about the summit's conclusions on political

union. Mrs Thatcher described ideas for overhauling EC institutions as a "ragbag of proposals".

Britain refused to endorse proposals to extend majority voting to taxation, the environment, social affairs and other matters; to give more power to the European parliament; to define European citizenship; to work towards a common foreign policy and to seek a greater community role in security and defence.

The Foreign Office hopes, however, that with Luxembourg and The Netherlands holding the EC presidency for the next year, there will be more sympathy for Britain's views.

Ministers want to devise a strategy that will command the support of the bulk of the party and end the damaging confusion over the government's approach to Europe. Douglas Hurd signalled the need for such a development when he said: "When the [leadership] contest is over, the prime minister and the cabinet will be able to consider how to draw the threads of our policy on Europe together, unmistakably,

and rally the party and the country behind us."

On the domestic scene, Conservative MPs are bracing themselves for a fresh wave of unpopular next spring as councils set their poll tax levels. With the economy still expected to be in the doldrums, unhappiness over the community charge is likely to result in poor opinion poll ratings and, if Mrs Thatcher is prime minister, a further bout of speculation about her leadership.

Only a few weeks later on May 2, elections will be held for 12,253 seats in 36 English metropolitan councils and in 333 district councils in England and Wales. The elections will offer some pointers on whether the government could risk going to the country in June or October. If there is not a general election in June, the prime minister will face the dilemma of either going to the country in October or in 1992.

Should she wait until 1992, the prime minister faces creating the perception that the government is clinging to power until the last moment.

Political sketch

'Gazza' unavailable as temple crumbles

THE committee room in which the great event was to be staged was packed. Outside, a queue of would-be spectators was held back by parliamentary orderlies. The air buzzed with the whispers of waiting journalists. The world watched.

Gary Lineker, the England captain, was to appear before the all-party football committee, at 6 pm. "Gazza" being unavailable, "Lazza" was the star attraction.

Not far away, a sideshow was attracting some slight attention. Voting was soon to close on who should be prime minister. The incumbent, Mrs Thatcher, ("Thazza") was being challenged by a man nicknamed "Tarzan". If Tarzan could make it to round two, "Dazza" Hurd and "Jazza" Major — and the fearsome "Nazza", from Chingford — would be under pressure to stand. But only if Thazza stood down.

As reporters waited, hoping to catch news, views, or at least quips, from MPs hurrying to vote, Nazza's latest joke was circulating, to merriment.

"There's a dream ticket for the leadership. Have you heard?" Mr Tebbit apparently enquired, poker-faced, over a drink following a satellite TV discussion. "My brain in Michael Heseltine's body."

As so often in these affairs of state, the journalists appeared to be interviewing each other. From time to time a Tory MP or minister would try to join in, but it was clear that the main actors were confused about events. The media appeared to have the most confident grasp, and were eagerly explaining to each other what was happening and what it meant.

It struck me that these leadership crises could most usefully be staged without involving MPs at all. Is it not the press which sets the stage, creates the roles, and auditions politicians hopeful of appearing in our show? MPs make an amateurish and often haphazard contribution. Often they do not understand what it is we want them to say. Their fumbled input requires brutal editing. MPs

should be dropped entirely from the screenplay and referred to only indirectly.

Perhaps the saddest of sights was that of backbenchers whom none of the journalists recognised, striding from the ballot, ready with a wry "no comment" and a smile for the cameras — only to find that nobody was asking. Some said "no comment" anyway, hovered for a moment, then moved sadly off.

"We check," said Sir Michael Shaw, presiding over the ballot, "that they are who they say they are."

With the inimitable Teddy Taylor (C. Southend E), there was no need to check.

"Any comment, Mr Taylor?" "Yes. In all my years, I've never seen anything so cruel and so nasty." He stalked off.

"So he's wavering," muttered one reporter.

Sir Anthony Meyer strode by. "I'm not revealing which candidate I supported, but it was a man."

In the chamber, it was insufferable. They were discussing health questions; but the atmosphere resembled the waiting room adjacent to an intensive care ward, as friends and relations of a patient in critical condition try to while away the hours playing Scrabble. Minds were elsewhere and they almost forgot to welcome to the despatch box a brand new secretary of state, William Waldegrave.

"I hope he'll still be there after 6.30 pm," said Labour's Robin Cook, generously. He was, so was she.

The heading of the Duke of Monmouth, 36 years ago, was apparently a grisly affair. It took seven chops of the axe. After the third chop the duke was reported as looking up and enquiring "Is that it?"

It wasn't, quite. Nor for her, yesterday, quite. But, like Rasputin, though much nicer, Thazza is running out of lives. And like Samson — "Sazza" — she seems determined to bring the Tory temple down around her ears.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Bush close to agreement

Continued from page 1

officials as a perfect illustration of how President Saddam was ignoring the warnings from the rest of the world.

The Americans are keen to include in a new resolution some form of ultimatum to the Iraqi leader. However, British sources emphasise that there was no question of a set deadline for Iraq's withdrawal. "That would impose too great a pressure on our own forces," one source said.

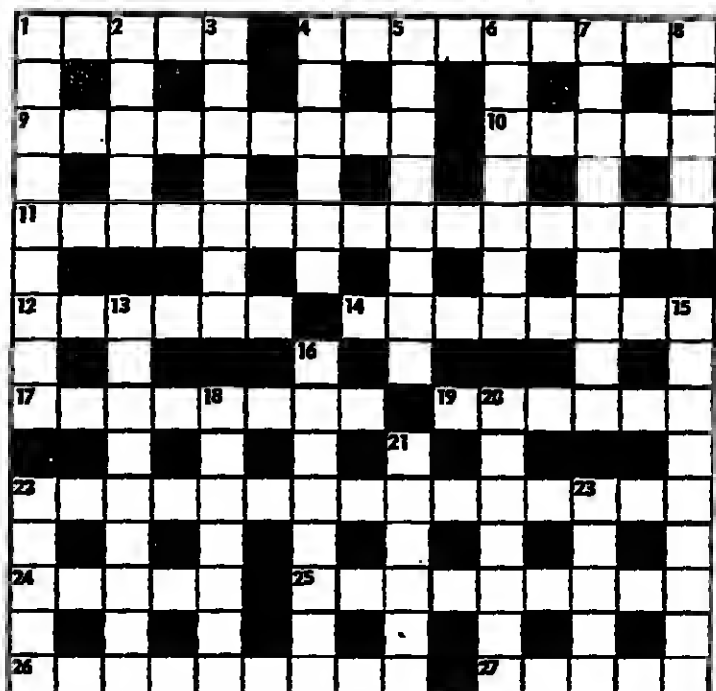
Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, also had a session with Mr Shevardnadze, playing his part in trying to persuade Moscow to back a fresh UN resolution, authorising force. Mrs Thatcher

told Mr Gorbachev, and later President Mitterrand of France, that Britain was considering sending reinforcements to the Gulf, although no troop numbers were given.

Like the Soviet leader President Mitterrand had also adopted a wait-and-see approach to the Gulf, apparently unwilling to rush into a new UN resolution. But British sources remained confident that France could be counted on to support the resolution authorising force.

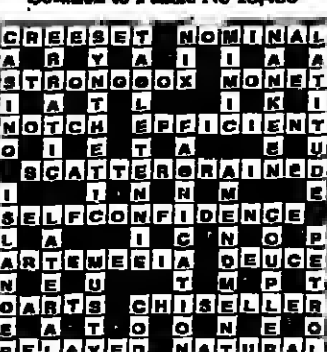
Both Mrs Thatcher and President Bush also saw President Turgut Ozal, the Turkish leader, a key figure in the alliance against Iraq.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,457



- ACROSS**
- 1 Unenthused lad receives a letter from abroad (5).
 - 4 Drama featuring equally a poet and an artist (4,5).
 - 9 Shameless girl gets hit (9).
 - 10 In second half of game, receiver finally achieves a point (5).
 - 11 Belittle Beth, who is in trouble — it's not fair (3,5,4).
 - 12 It's strange — not even one Tory lost heart (6).
 - 14 Girl and boy finally meet in stable (8).
 - 17 Rescue craft in drama round a small island (5,3).
 - 19 Several people who collect pearls (6).
 - 22 He singed a beard and badly scarred his skin (3,7,5).
 - 24 Affect part of London (5).
 - 25 Extension of play — actor to give out backing (5,4).
 - 26 S's crumpled (9).
 - 27 Pears — one's missing when sitting is resumed (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Land in border country (5,4).
 - 2 Works in the garden (5).
 - 3 Citadel ruined, in a manner of speaking (7).
 - 4 Train a group of porpoises (6).
 - 5 Sum is complicated — and I do it! (8).
 - 6 Cow in half-open cupboard (7).
 - 7 "Clear out of class" I interjected (9).
 - 8 Should we hear anything? (5).
 - 13 For instance, the accent I had upset a reviewer (9).
 - 15 Having no sense let assets deteriorate (9).
 - 16 Royalty included in the papers (8).
 - 18 Unfamiliar way over the mountains (7).
 - 20 Taken in custody, put up in a hotel (7).
 - 21 For a break, knock about a country (6).
 - 22 "Well, hello there, soldier!" (5).
 - 23 A girl gone wrong (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,456



Complete crossword, page 17

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ANORAK**
- A shaggy spin
 - A student's suit
 - A motorway hitch-hiker
- SHANNY**
- The smooth blenny
 - Variant of the shenny
 - An Australian tourist
- RAME**
- A Macedonian cavalry squadron
 - Crowded, bustling, busy
 - With drooping branches
- TOISE**
- A measurement strap
 - Post-point centre
 - About two metres

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0898 4011 followed by the appropriate code.

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Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Bright and cold with sunny spells and showers, wintry over the hills of Scotland and northern England. The heavier showers will be confined in the afternoon to exposed eastern coastal areas. Inland areas will generally be dry after a frosty start with some fog patches. It will feel rather cold with temperatures possibly reaching the seasonal norm in the sunnier South. Outlook: continuing bright, cold and showery.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Algeria	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c

Monday's figures are latest available.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 14°C (49°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity: 9 pm, 67% per cent. Rain: 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sea: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 14°C (57°F); lowest day temp: Bournemouth, Dorset and Galloway, and Kilmory, Moray Firth, 5°C (41°F); highest rainfall: Ayr, 1.1 in. Rain: 0.1 in. Sea: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Wind: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in.

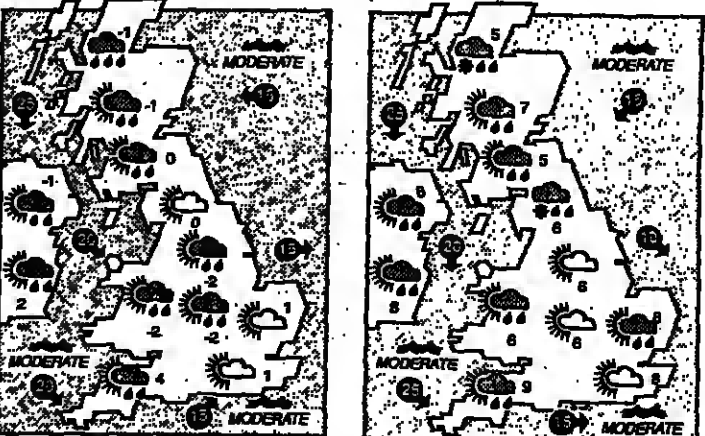
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 14°C (49°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity: 9 pm, 67% per cent. Rain: 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sea: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 14°C (49°F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity: 9 pm, 67% per cent. Rain: 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sea: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in.

AM PM



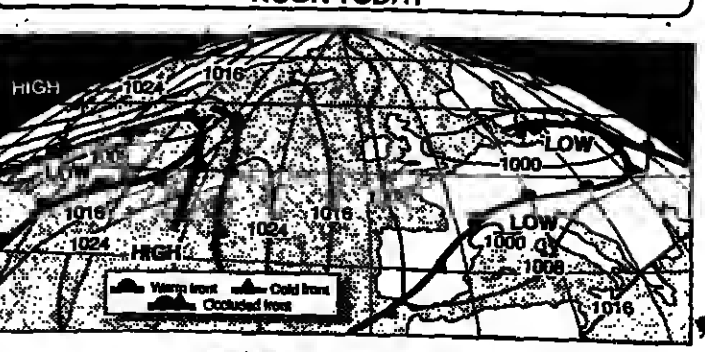
LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.04 pm to 7.30 am
Bristol 4.14 pm to 7.30 am
Cardiff 4.24 pm to 7.30 am
Edinburgh 4.34 pm to 7.30 am
Glasgow 4.44 pm to 7.30 am
Manchester 4.54 pm to 7.30 am
Newcastle 5.04 pm to 7.30 am
Preston 5.14 pm to 7.30 am
Sheffield 5.24 pm to 7.30 am
Southampton 5.34 pm to 7.30 am
Trafalgar 5.44 pm to 7.30 am
Wolverhampton 5.54 pm to 7.30 am

YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c
Abertawe	18-25	SE	1-3	b, c

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

THE TIMES

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Coastal**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Laura Mayor
8.50 **Daytime UK**, featuring a presentation by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Sifers in Birmingham and Adam Mills in Manchester
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwave**, another round of the quiz with Andy Craig
9.25 **Don't Die**, Rosemary Moon presents another meet 9.30 **People Today**, Your chance to call the television doctor
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by Simon Parkin begins with **Playdays** (10.05-10.25), cartoon adventure with Tigger, Pingu, and 10.35 **People Today**, Your chance to call the television doctor
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a discussion on adoption 11.45 **Before Noon**, includes a phone-in from Manchester and a star guest in Birmingham
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After Noon**, Music and memories with Cliff Michelmore and Wendy Gibson 12.20 **Scene Today**, Live entertainment from Pebble Mill with Judi Sifers and Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton, Weather
1.30 **Neighbours**, (CeeFax) 1.50 **Going for Gold**, Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European general knowledge quiz
2.15 **Knots Landing**, Dallas spin-off with the poor relations of the rich Elwings

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of yesterday's proceedings in the Lords and Commons
9.00 **Daytime on Two**, France and the French 9.15 **Women** discuss their experiences of the menopause 9.45 **Keeping warm** on a cold day 10.00 **For the very young** 10.15 **Search out science** 10.40 **East Kilbride new town** 11.00 **Learning to read** 11.15 **How to use language** 11.35 **Science for five and six-year-olds** 12.10 **Spelling** 12.30 **The problems** some young people face when leaving home 12.55 **Designing a yacht** by computers 1.20 **The Adventures of Spot** 1.25 **What's inside** 1.40 **Using a compass**
2.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live** 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Catchword**, Anagrams and word puzzles with Paul Colton
4.30 **Behind the Headlines**, Beverly Anderson and guests discuss daily headlines
5.00 **Film** 90 with Barry Norman (5.30) **Nature**, Death on the St Lawrence, A disturbing report on the dead whales being washed up along the shores of Canada's St Lawrence River (5.30-6.00) (CeeFax)
6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, Further space adventure with the new crew of the Enterprise (CeeFax)
6.50 **DEF** It begins with Dance Energy Update, Dance chart followed by **Autobiography of the USA**, A peek at American history 7.00 **Rough Guides to Careers**, A new series starts with reporters Ray Diercks and Lindsay Macfarlane investigating the catering industry 7.40 **Rapido**, Includes the Pet Shop Boys talking about their new album and Barry White on tour
8.10 **Antenna**,
CHOICE: Supposedly the general title for a science magazine, *Antenna* is proving to be a very wide umbrella. Only one of tonight's three items can properly be called scientific. A report from the United States by an old *Horizon* hand, Alec Nisbet, on how street lighting is "polluting" the sky, and making life difficult for astronomers. A German film, narrated by Julian Rappeler, about the wildlife inhabiting a puddle belongs more to David Attenborough territory while the main item could easily have turned up in *Panorama*, taking Uganda as its model. Dr John Scaaman, senior medical officer of Stave's Children, questions whether immunisation is the best way to improve health in poor countries. He argues that it is very expensive and does not prevent the majority of illnesses and suggests that the money might be better spent on providing basic health services which could offer a wider range of treatment
9.00 **M*A*S*H: Operation Friendship**, More black comedy from the medical of the 407th (10.15)
9.25 **Die Hard**, Ghosts,
CHOICE: Now that Paula Milne's *Die Hard* thriller has set its stall, the interest in how now will be in how well it can sustain its initial momentum. Six hours is an awful lot of television time to invest in a series as the average cinema film, and the experience of similar ventures in the past is that a break opening is often followed by a long period of making time. There are hints of this in tonight's second episode, but to Milne's credit she has kept the pace. The director of her screenplay is the deft interweaving of the personal story of the mother (Melanie Lynskey) and the search for her abducted children and the so far more enigmatic political story, involving the legacy of a German terrorist. The director, John Dahl, has the same taste and makes effective use of the Hamburg locations while Frederic Fontaine continues to impress as the latter-day Philip Marlowe (CeeFax)
10.20 **Film** *Column*, David Cannadine, professor of British History at Columbia University, New York, offers a historical perspective on Mrs Thatcher
10.30 **Newsnight** with Frances Short
11.15 **The Late Show**, Arts and media magazine
11.55 **Weather**
12.00 **Behind the Headlines**, See 4.30, Ends at 12.35am

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 6.25am-7.00 *Anglia News* 10.40 *Film*, *Arizona* 12.15 *Am*, *News* 12.45 *Sci*, *Sci* with *Kilroy* 1.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 1.30 *Sci*, *Sci* 2.30 *Sci*, *Sci* 3.15 *Sci*, *Sci* 4.30 *Sci*, *Sci* 5.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 6.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 7.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 8.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 9.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 10.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 11.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 12.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 1.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 2.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 3.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 4.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 5.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 6.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 7.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 8.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 9.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 10.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 11.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 12.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 1.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 2.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 3.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 4.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 5.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 6.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 7.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 8.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 9.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 10.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 11.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 12.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 1.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 2.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 3.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 4.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 5.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 6.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 7.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 8.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 9.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 10.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 11.00 *Sci*, *Sci* 12.00 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Unions 'still looking for inflation-plus pay awards'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

INFLATION-plus pay settlements are still trade unions' starting point, despite their offer of responsible, co-ordinated wage bargaining made to government and employers, a Confederation of British Industry leader said.

Geoffrey Armstrong, chairman of the CBI's employment committee, said that Britain should not look to new national institutions to solve the problems on pay facing companies in the UK.

His remarks to a conference in London, organised by the Campaign for Work, follow an offer by the TUC at the last meeting of the National Economic Development Council for urgent talks to set up new, "responsible" discussions on pay, training, productivity and other issues in the wake of Britain's ERM entry.

The government rejected the offer. Mr Armstrong, one of industry's most senior personnel managers, said that industry was open to any constructive suggestions, but individual companies should not be diverted from their own efforts to improve performance by attempts to find institutional solutions.

He said the concept of a pay forum "at national, multi-sector level is all just words, unless it is accompanied by a

joint determination to drive down pay settlements that have not been earned through raising performance.

"As the TUC itself made clear at NEDC, and as many powerful figures on the right and left of the trade union movement were quick to point out, even before the NEDC discussions could take place, the unions are just not in the business of delivering wage moderation or pay norms."

"Even if they could, they would not want to. Inflation-plus is their starting point on pay."

He was sceptical, too, about greater synchronisation on pay in the first three months of the year, arguing that this would do little more than reinforce the idea of a going rate. Instead, companies needed flexibility, and might learn from the Japanese practice of relating pay more closely to improvements in local labour costs.

What employers faced now, he said, was the need to explain to their employees why their pay this year would rise by less than last year, and why some jobs would have to go to protect the future of the rest. That was the real setting for alternative proposals for handling pay.

ECC profit cut to £86m



ECC Group, formerly English China Clays, saw pre-tax profits fall to £86.4 million (£150.6 million) in the 12 months to end-September, after a £32 million exceptional item for redundancy, rationalisation and worsening conditions in all the group's markets (Martin Waller writes).

Andrew Teare, the chief

executive (above), joined from Rugby Portland Cement in April. The group is maintaining its dividend payments with a second interim of 1.3p making a total of 19.6p, while forecasting a final payment of at least 4.9p a share. Mr Teare defended the maintained payment. He said: "We're a long-term business;

we should have a long-term dividend policy."

Redundancies are part of cost-cutting instituted by Mr Teare, which will entail £250 million asset sales by end-1993 and capital spending cut by a third next year. ECC is changing its financial year end to end-December.

Times, p27

Lloyd's faces higher premiums

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE contraction in capacity in the Lloyd's "excess of loss" market, which provides reinsurance against catastrophic losses, looks set to lead to increased reinsurance premiums for both marine and non-marine underwriters.

Specialist excess of loss syndicates have been hit by a succession of disasters since the October 1987 storm. A number have been forced out of business or been unable to close years. The problem was highlighted by the failure of Fehrm Underwriting Agencies, which ran three syn-

dicates specialising in excess of loss, with combined losses of about £250 million.

The syndicates have been unable to close the 1987 year because of uncertainty about the eventual size of the losses. A number of other excess of loss insurers are thought to be facing financial problems.

Erskine's UK gains lost in US falls

By MARTIN WALLER

ERSKINE House, the office equipment supplier, has unveiled interim figures indicating that an improvement in its British business after restructuring has been matched by a decline in the American market.

Pre-tax profits fell from £7.63 million to £6.53 million in the six months to end-September, although the interim dividend is held at 2.3p.

At the operating level, profits were down from £11.4 million to £9.6 million, while the necessity to pay a dividend on preference shares issued by Erskine's American offshoot in March saw earnings fall from 9.5p to 6.7p per share.

Brian McGilivray, the chairman, said lower pre-tax profits were attributable to the non-recurrence of £1.2 million profit from the disposal of part of the lease portfolio in America last year and a £400,000 reduction because of exchange rate movements.

While pre-tax profits rose from £2.26 million to £3.25 million in Britain, more difficult trading conditions in America meant a fall from £5.21 million to £2.89 million.

Erskine shares have been affected by house calls made to market-makers in August and a subsequent false report that a subsidiary had gone into receivership. The price failed to recover when the true facts became known. The shares held at 50p yesterday.

Analysts are looking for about £15 million pre-tax to the current year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

APV to allow £161 for restructuring

APV, the food processing machinery manufacturer, has announced that it will make about £16 million of provisions in its 199 against the cost of restructuring its operations. The company's shares fell sharply in September with figures and a warning of gloomy prospects for the year.

Half the £16 million provision will be above the exceptional item and half will be an extraordinary company said it was confident that despite the level of dividend for the year will be maintained. Fr chief executive, said: "The APV board has taken action in implementing these restructuring measures shares fell 2p to 78p on the announcement.

Martin Currie Young & C assets down edges ahead

NET assets of the Martin Currie European Investment Trust, which was launched last February, have dipped from their initial level of 98p a share to 77.9p by the end of October. This represents a fall of 18.9 per cent compared with the sector average of 17.5 per cent. Interim results show a pre-tax profit of £477,000 for the six months, and earnings per share of 1.41p.

Setback for Cosalt

A DECLINE in the fishing industry and industry-wide overproduction of caravans took its toll on profits at Cosalt, the ship's chandler to caravan maker. Pre-tax profits fell from £3.04 million to £3.78 million in the year to September 2, on turnover up from £76 million to £80 million.

Edward Brian, Cosalt's chairman and chief executive, said the decline in the fishing industry, resulted in lower ship chandler profits. Earnings per share slid from 29.16p to 22.71p, but the final dividend is raised to 6.5p (6p), a total of 10.75p (10p) for the year. The shares eased 2p to 141p.

Ritz Design bucks trend

RITZ Design Group, the women's clothing manufacturer which supplies Marks and Spencer, saw a 15 per cent advance in first-half profits from £743,000 to £855,000 in the six months to end-September, in spite of difficult conditions. Earnings rose by 15 per cent to 6.2p, while the interim dividend is improved 20 per cent to 1.6p. The shares firmed 3p to 103p.

CML raises profits 12%

CML Microsystems, the electronics components business quoted on the USM, lifted pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £2.13 million in the six months to end-September, on turnover marginally ahead from £6.28 million to £6.31 million. Earnings per share climbed from 6.7p to 7.6p, but there is again no interim dividend. The shares firmed 2p to 140p.

AIB advances 63%

FUNDS from an £122 million (£20.37million) rights issue last year helped Anglo Irish Bank Corporation, the banking and financial services group, to a 63 per cent gain in pre-tax profit to £16.15 million in the year to end-September.

The profits were generated from a 56 per cent increase in the group's lending to £136.5 million. The final dividend is raised to 12p per share, making a year's total of £13.36p, up 13 per cent. Gerard Murphy, the chairman, said the bank was confident of significantly increasing its profits and earnings per share.

Midland card to be processed by EDP

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank has begun the cost-cutting programme promised in August by Sir Kit McMahon, its chairman. The bank is giving its Switch debit card processing operations to Electronic Data Processing, the American technology group.

Midland told more than 200 staff in Sheffield and Leicester yesterday that they will become employees of the American company from December 1. The deal was signed last Friday.

The cuts are part of 1,000 job losses Sir Kit said would take place by the end of the year and that the bank confirmed yesterday will be met, mainly through natural wastage. In April, the bank made 392 technical support staff redundant.

Electronic Data will run the processing operations as be-

fore and charge a competitive fee. The Dallas group will rent the processing department's sites from the bank.

EDP is one of the world's largest card transaction processing groups and is owned by General Motors. The group is believed to have been a contender to buy Signet, the jointly owned credit card processor, but its bid was refused because banks feared that it had long-term plans to issue credit or debit cards in Britain.

A Midland spokesman said that the Switch move did not affect the bank's relationship or commitment to the debit card. Sir Kit announced Midland's cost-cutting programme after pre-exceptional profits collapsed 89 per cent to £36 million in the first half of the year. The bank plans to cut a further 3,000 jobs next year.

New image as Air UK expands

By OUR CITY STAFF

AIR UK is to introduce new services, new aircraft, more jobs and a new uniform. The airline will be taking delivery of at least four Bae 146 jets next year to be used when it begins a three-times-a-day service to Aberdeen and a daily service to Nice, both from Gatwick, in the spring. Air UK is also increasing the number of its Stansted flights to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Jersey and Guernsey.

Andrew Gray, managing director, said the airline hoped to carry 2.3 million passengers next year, well up on the 1.4 million in 1988 and the estimated two million this year. The airline had 21 aircraft in 1989 and this figure would rise to almost 30 next year.

He said staff numbers next year would go up to 2,000 from 1,800 this year.

New uniforms for both ground and air staff as well as new corporate colours would be introduced during 1991.

Mr Gray said Air UK would be interested in talking to American Airlines about setting up a collaborative marketing deal should the American carrier be successful in its bid to fly to New York from Stansted.

Grampian up 10.6% at interim

By JONATHAN PRYNN

GRAMPIAN Television, ITV contractor for the north of Scotland, has increased interim pre-tax profits 10.6 per cent to £1.2 million to end-August.

Sir Douglas Hardie, chairman, said: "To produce increased profits for six months when advertising revenue fell by nearly 2 per cent is a creditable performance." He said that a continued downturn in revenue could threaten Grampian's chances of matching its first half performance in the latter six months of the financial year.

Profits were struck after an increased Exchange levy of £117,000 and on turnover down 2 per cent to £10.3 million. The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.7p.

Television operating costs were reduced by 4 per cent compared with the same period last year. The property division increased profits by 11 per cent and let its remaining available property, Grampian Court, to BP.

The company is confident that the size and location of the transmission area will help it to retain its franchise bid, to be submitted in April next year.

Babcock

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL GROUP PLC

"The Group has performed well and results are in line with our expectations. We are confident that we have another successful year before us".

Lord King Chairman

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year to 31 March 1990		Half-Year to 30 September 1990	Half-Year to 30 September 1989
£624.3m	Turnover	£352.1m	£295.1m
£42.6m	Profit before Tax	£21.4m	£20.1m
3.0p	Dividend per Share	1.2p	1.2p
6.5p	Earnings per Share	3.0p	3.2p
£585.4m	Orders Won	£318.3m	£310.1m
As at 31 March 1990		As at 30 September 1990	As at 30 September 1989
£67.3m	Net Liquid Funds	£55.3m	£28.9m

Babcock

International Engineers, Contractors and Manufacturers.

Babcock International Group PLC
Head Office: The Lodge, Badminton Court,
Church Street, Amersham HP7 0DD

The results for the half year to 30 September 1990 and 1989 have not been audited. The above statement of results for the year to 31 March 1990 is an extract from the Group's full accounts for that period which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and on which the Group's auditors gave an unqualified report. The comparative information for both the half year to 30 September 1989 and the full year to 31 March 1990 was prepared on the pro-forma basis as explained in the Group's accounts to 31 March 1990.

The interim dividend of 1.2 pence per share will be paid on 21 January 1991 to shareholders registered on 21 December 1990.

Copies of the Company's Interim Report to Shareholders may be obtained by writing to the Company Secretary.

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21 1990

City Editor
John Bell

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Thatcher result hits pound

THE pound slipped by 1 cent in New York to \$1.9610 immediately after the result of the Conservative party leadership first-round ballot was announced. Sterling had closed at \$1.9735 in London and had fallen against the mark from DM2.9040 to about DM2.8950.

Shares of British companies quoted in New York had fallen by about 15 or 20 cents each shortly after the 6.30pm leadership contest announcement confirming the need for a second ballot. In London, government bonds fell about 1/2 point on news.

"It's the least satisfactory outcome for everyone," said Alastair Ross Goobey, chief investment strategist at James Capel.

Court reprieve

The Dublin High Court has extended by another month its protection of Larry Goodman's troubled business. The court also granted more time to a court-appointed examiner who is seeking to assemble a rescue package for Goodman International, Europe's largest beef processor, with its 33 bank creditors. Court protection was extended until December 28. Examiner Peter Fitzpatrick has until December 11 to present his report.

Babcock ahead

Interim pre-tax profits at Babcock International Group, the heavy engineering company, advanced 6 per cent to £21.4 million during the six months to end-September. The company will pay a half-time dividend unchanged at 1.2p.

Tempus, page 27

Payout rises

Hazlewood Foods is raising its interim dividend from 1.8p to 2.1 a share despite a fall in net earnings from 8.71p to 7.5p a share in the interim period ended September 30. Pre-tax profits were £22.5 million (£24.5 million) on a turnover of £286.7 million (£271.8 million).

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9705 (-0.0010)
German mark 2.9089 (+0.0023)
Exchange index 94.2 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1667.1 (+19.1)
FT-SE 100 2152.2 (+19.3)
New York Dow Jones 2548.02 (-17.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23205.48 (-312.68)
Closing figures ... Page 31
Major indices and major changes Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 13% 13%
3-month eligible bills 13% 13%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.08-7.07%
30-year bonds 10 1/2% 10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.9705
Frankfurt DM2.8989
Paris FF4.9282
Switzerland Sfr4.9282
Italy Lit1.9311
Spain Ptas166.64
Japan Yen166.64
Australia Aus\$1.52
Canada Can\$1.33
ECU 1.9365
SDR 1.359432

GOLD

London: Gold 377.75-378.25 (£191.75)
New York: Gold 377.00-377.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$28.80 bbl (\$29.75)
Dentons latest trading price

FOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.44	2.46
Austria Sch	21.40	21.40
Belgium Fr	2.365	2.365
Denmark Kr	7.46	7.46
Finland Mk	10.22	10.22
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	3.36	3.36
Greece Dr	15.84	15.84
Japan Yen	166.64	166.64
Ireland P	1.37	1.37
Italy Lit	2036.36	2036.36
Netherlands Gld	3.60	3.60
Norway Kr	4.76	4.76
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
South Africa Rd	6.50	6.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	11.36	11.36
Switzerland Sfr	2.20	2.20
Turkey Lira	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.9365	1.9365
Yugoslavia Dnr	33.00	33.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 153.3 (October)

Lending down to £4.6bn as economy slows

By COLIN NARBOROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK and building society lending plunged to £4.6 billion last month from £7.5 billion in September, according to Bank of England statistics, providing further evidence that the economy is slowing down.

The subdued lending surprised some City analysts because companies need to finance working capital from bank borrowings.

Separate figures from the London clearing banks, however, gave a mixed picture of lending to the corporate sector, suggesting "distress borrowing" among manufacturers and retailers, the areas hardest hit by the counter-inflationary squeeze.

Although the sustained slowdown in the money supply would earlier have justified a cut in interest rates, British entry last month to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System has downgraded the importance of the money aggregates, switching the focus to the pound.

ERM membership now restrains the government from making base rate cuts that would allow the foreign exchange markets to force the pound outside its agreed fluctuation limits in the parity grid.

The provisional Bank data showed that M0, the narrow money measure targeted by the Treasury, grew only 4 per cent in the year to October, down from 4.6 per cent the previous month. The measure

is expected to fall further within the target range of between 1 and 5 per cent in the months ahead.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Midland Montagu, estimates that M0 growth will have slowed to 3.3 per cent this month, based on the latest weekly notes in circulation numbers from the Bank. "If this can be sustained, M0 could be sub-3 per cent in December," he said.

In his autumn statement, John Major, the Chancellor, advanced the persistent slowdown in M0 since April as evidence that inflationary pressures were "firmly under control".

Inflation, which stood at an annual 10.9 per cent in September and October, is expected to fall abruptly this month.

The big drop in lending by banks and building societies to the private sector last month was largely due to September being boosted by quarterly interest rate payments.

It nevertheless represents a substantial fall against the monthly average of £5.5 billion over the last half year. Seasonally adjusted sterling lending of £15.4 billion in the year to October was the lowest 12-month figure since June 1982.

Clearing bank lending to the private sector fell by less than £100 million in October after seasonal adjustment, after an overall rise of £3.8 billion in lending in September.

While lending to the personal sector was flat, reflecting the decline in consumer con-

fidence and rising unemployment, parts of the corporate sector still increased their borrowing.

Retailers and manufacturers, the sectors worst hit by the slowdown, borrowed £529 million and £336 million respectively.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi Securities, saw "distress borrowing" in the figures, as companies sought just to keep going, meet outstanding payments, or finance involuntary stockbuilding.

He expected the situation to worsen for such firms when the reported slowdown in orders fed through.

Fresh evidence of how hard high interest rates are hitting small and medium-sized firms comes from the Finance Houses Association, whose members reported a 30 per cent slump in hire purchase lending in the three months to September.

This reduced this form of lending to £1.28 billion from £1.8 billion in the same period last year.

Neil Grant, the FHA director, said his members have strong links with many of the small and medium-sized businesses across the country. "It is these companies that are obviously feeling the ill effects of deepening recession."

In the first nine months of this year, FHA figures show business lending at £4.46 billion, a drop of 18 per cent from the same period last year.

Consumer lending fell only 6 per cent to £8.21 billion.

WPP in further collapse to 115p

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

SHARES in WPP, the advertising and marketing services group, collapsed for the second successive day amid growing concern over the level of next year's profits.

After a 113p fall on Monday, when WPP said that it would be £20 million short of City profit forecasts this year, shares dived a further 16p yesterday. They closed at 115p, giving WPP a market value of £47 million. Earlier this year they were at 715p.

Neil Blackley, at James Capel, said: "WPP will have grave difficulty in repaying the £34 million interest payment on its seven-year \$605 million term loan." Brian Burgess, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "The decline in profits increases concern about the risk of the group. WPP's debt repayments are scheduled on a variety of profit forecasts."

Sue Bailey, at Warburgs, said: "WPP just hasn't come up with the goods. Margins won't be what people hoped. Debt is not coming down."

Analysts believe WPP may not make much more than £65 million in 1991. Last year, group profits were £75 million and current-year forecasts centred on £110 million before Monday. Interest cover on next year's outlook will be above the level of 2.5 times, at which point some loan covenants are at risk. WPP has time for cost-cutting to improve balance-sheet ratios.

Stock market, page 28

Growth slowdown expected by BAA

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BAA, the airport group which owns Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, is expecting a sharp slowdown in the growth of airline traffic to between 1 and 2 per cent next year, by far the lowest rate of expansion in recent times.

In the six months to end September, the number of passengers using BAA's airports increased by 5.6 per cent to 42 million.

As recently as June, Sir Norman Payne, the chairman, expected growth to be around 4 per cent next year but BAA has lowered its sights for the full year to between 3 and 4 per cent as a result of the recession and the strength of sterling, which has led to minimal growth in recent weeks.

The opening of the new Stansted terminal next March will add about £50 million extra costs next year and, if

this pessimistic view of air traffic is borne out, Sir Norman said profits would be flat in 1991-92.

In the first half of this year, pre-tax profits grew by 10 per cent to £205 million despite BAA making provisions of £18.5 million against non airport property developments being carried out by Lynton, its property subsidiary. Lynton made a loss of £10 million against a profit of £10 million a year ago. Sir Norman said the provisions were intended to cover the developments to completion.

BAA has increased its interest dividend by 16.7 per cent to 5.25p per share, in line with the growth of earnings to 30p.

Revenue rose by 14 per cent to £491 million but operating costs increased by 18 per cent to £286 million. Higher costs stemmed mainly from a drive to improve levels of service at the short-term expense of productivity and partly from increased security and safety measures, which cost £55 million and could not be passed on fully.

BAA is in discussions with government and airlines to bring in 100 per cent security checks on hold baggage. Costs have not yet been worked out but will be substantial. Sir John Egan, who took over as chief executive in September, said BAA was examining detailed plans for a fifth terminal at Heathrow by the end of the century.



Pessimistic: Sir Norman

Comment, page 26

Government faces angry businessmen over tax system

Maude out of the VAT and into fire

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

THE government faces the task of convincing Britain's businessmen that it has not hindered their interests by approving a new European value added tax regime.

Despite warnings from the business community, Francis Maude, the Treasury financial secretary, and his 11 EC counterparts agreed a new system for collecting VAT on intra-Community trade after 1992. In the hope of placating critics who fear the scheme will increase paperwork, hamper trade and jeopardise the room to persuade business of its merits, formal endorsement of the regime is expected on December 3. Other EC states also gave only conditional support, and some will need to assure domestic sceptics that the scheme will not encourage tax fraud.

1996 will be charged VAT in their "destination" country, as happens at present. To stop tax evaders having their goods falsely "zero-rated" for export while selling them on the home market, all traders will have to file quarterly returns citing customers, VAT numbers and the total value of exports. The tax authorities would use electronic data exchange to check that exports from one country tally with imports in another.

Critics fear the system could saddle British traders with more paperwork, and that it could hit smaller businesses. More regulated countries fear it could give traders a chance to ease their tax liability, while Germany is worried it might breach its data protection rules. Despite these reservations, formal agreement on December 3 is considered likely.

Britain believes the compromise, tentatively agreed on Monday, is "much, much better" than alternative plans that

would force companies to itemise every product sold across EC borders.

The agreement will help lift a boulder from the road to a border-free Community after 1992. But differences will resurface if Christiane Scrivener, the tax and customs commissioner, tries once again to replace the "transitional" regime with a more radical one after 1996. She still wants to have tax levied at origin, as happens on domestic sales. Britain and others fear this will force VAT rates down as shoppers from high-tax countries flock abroad, depriving governments of a large slice of their fiscal sovereignty.

To avert an exodus after 1996, the European parliament called for VAT rates to be brought closer before switching to such a regime. Euro-MPs also want a "clearing house" to compensate treasuries which lose tax revenue as a result, but governments fear this could create a bureaucratic nightmare.



Powering on: John Wakeham hands over details of the electricity share price to Kleinwort's David Clementi

ISE set to question bear raid suspect

By MARTIN WALLER

THE International Stock Exchange is expected this week to interview an individual over the hoax "bear raid" on the shares of Erskine House, the office equipment supplier, which led to their abrupt collapse in August.

The investigation into one of the earliest of the "bear raids" that have plagued the stock market in recent months is believed to have identified a disgruntled former employee, on the basis of tapes of telephone calls made to market-makers which have been circulated around the company. The caller had claimed to be a director of the company phoning from overseas and requesting the sale of some shares.

Some days ago a number of Erskine employees are thought to have made a tentative identification of the voice as that of a businessman who sold his company to the group and stayed on but was subsequently encouraged to leave. The man is now expected to be interviewed by the exchange's insider dealing unit. It is not known whether the hoax calls were an attempt at revenge or at manipulating the stock market.

Any prosecution would come under the Financial Services Act, which makes the issuing of such misleading statements a criminal offence. Two market-makers were contacted on August 21 over the supposed share dealings and were also told that Brian McGillivray, the chairman, would be selling part of his holding. The shares then collapsed from 64p to 45p before recovering to 54p.

Company directors, and Mr McGillivray in particular, who owns 2.6 per cent of the equity, are believed to be considering legal action against the individual in question if criminal charges are successful. Market-makers became suspicious after they learnt that no directors other than Mr McGillivray owned so many shares. Erskine's broker, Hoare Govett, mounted an investigation and requested a Stock Exchange enquiry into recent dealings, while denying any intention on the part of the board to sell, but the damage to the price had already been done. The shares, unchanged at 50p yesterday, still stand below their level ahead of the hoax calls.

Results, page 26

Brewers' swap deal cleared

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE public houses-for-breweries swap between Grand Metropolitan and Elders DXL, the Courage beer and Foster's lager group, has been approved by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, subject to undertakings from the companies.

In a separate deal, GrandMet announced it is selling 115 Berni Inns and 35 managed public houses to Whitbread for £120 million.

The way is now clear for Courage to create a brewing empire with nearly 18 per cent of the UK market. A 7,000 public house chain, owned half-and-half by Courage and GrandMet, will be set up under the name Innkeeper Estates. The disposal of the Berni Inns and the breweries will help to trim GrandMet's gearing from an estimated 90 per cent at its September 30 year end to about 70 per cent.

GrandMet is keeping 58 of its Berni Inns, which can trade under the name for a year. Whitbread is acquiring the Berni name.

Objections from the monopolies commission to the deal between Courage and GrandMet have been overcome by a series of concessions from the companies. However, in several respects these appear less onerous than earlier offers to the MMC. The exception is a seven-year limit on the period in which Courage can exclu-

Electricity ready for switch on

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE price of shares in the 12 regional electricity distribution companies, to be announced today, was handed over to Kleinwort Benson, the government's main financial adviser in the £5.2 billion flotation, on the steps of the energy department at Whitehall.

The price, received by David Clementi, a director of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, from John Wakeham, the energy secretary, is widely expected to be 240p a share. The government has said the first payment will be 100p. Independent City analysts say any deviation from this price, and from the expected average yield for the 12 of 8.4 per cent, would be a shock, although government advisers kept the option of moving the price 5p, depending on market conditions.

Indications of strong public demand for the shares mean that more of the issue is likely to be handed to Frank, the fictitious investor of government publicity, than had initially been planned.

Assuming full operation of the clawback provisions that would haul the shares back from City and overseas institutions, Frank is likely to end up with 55 per cent of the shares, against 47 per cent in the case of the water companies, floated a year ago. About 7.3 million people have registered for the shares.

Fostering Elders, page 27

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BAA clouds have a silver lining

COMMENT

BAA will open its £400 million Stansted terminal and start incurring £50 million a year of net extra costs next March at just about the most awkward time possible. The growth in volume of passengers, already down to 3 or 4 per cent this year, will fall to about 1.5 per cent on BAA's admittedly cautious estimates. The airline industry, far from being in an expansive mood to try out new routes, is in deep trouble. And the non-core activities, such as property and hotels, that Sir Norman Payne, the chairman, was relying on to fill in the growth gap have run into stormy weather.

Air UK will be adding short-haul routes from Stansted, and American Airlines is thinking of transatlantic services. But BAA is not expecting much. In the first year the number of passengers using Stansted is budgeted to rise from 1.1 million to only 1.4 million out of capacity for 8 million. Break-even, which requires about 4.8 million passengers, will not come for four to five years.

This cloud has a silver lining.

BAA should find it much easier to argue its corner in the scheduled monopolies commission review of Southeast airports. If Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted were split up, the risk of this kind of development would be multiplied and extra traffic in future years would be fought over rather than fed to Stansted. The mooted fifth Heathrow terminal, which BAA is planning in detail with a view to the end of the century, would surely have to be shelved until beyond the end of the recession.

More positively, the direct outcome Sir Norman and Sir John Egan, the new chief executive, are predicting is that profits will be flat in 1991-92. That is some measure of BAA's underlying strength, which should be severely tested only if some big airlines go out of business.

Crossed wires

Racal's proposals for a three-way split have met a mixed reception in the City. Some senior corporate financiers say they have rarely seen such complex and wide-ranging proposals for restructuring a

major company accompanied by such sketchy detail. The sceptics also doubt that there is much enthusiasm in London for a management buyout of the old Racal Electronics interests that would be left after the full demerger of the group's 80 per cent holding in Racal Telecom, the Vodafone group, and 100 per cent of Racal Chubb, the security business. The dismal results of the Harris Queensway and Magnet buyouts have left many banks nursing their wounds and reluctant to take on further junk financing.

Racal is unrepentant over the handling of its announcement and the concept behind its plans. It stresses that it opted for an early announcement to minimise the risks of a leak. The stock exchange is believed to have congratulated Sir Ernest Harrison, the group's chairman, on achieving exactly that result. In fact Racal Electronics has long been pondering the problem

of its share price, which has frequently traded at a discount to the value of its holding in Racal Telecom. Sir Ernest sounded out his advisers as early as April this year. There were consultations throughout the summer and the advice was always the same — demerger the Telecom holding. During September, Racal sought detailed advice on the tax implications of its demerger proposals and from then on was ready to press the button to implement its proposals at any time. That the timing was a surprise is merely another way of saying that leaks were avoided. The strategy is undeniably correct — there can be no discount if the Telecom shares are demerged. As to the feasibility of a buyout, that is a question to be addressed much later, when the Telecom and Chubb demergers are fact, probably next April. So far, Racal has received a number of offers from Europe and elsewhere to participate in the buyout. But having completed the first two moves in the deal, there should be no shareholder pressure to rush the third.

THE arrival of Andrew Teare at ECC Group, formerly English China Clay, might have been expected to promote a kitchen sink approach to the company's figures, so the profit drop came as little surprise to the market.

What did surprise, to the extent of putting 11p on ECC's battered share price, to 310p, was his staunch defence of earlier dividend levels. The final payment was maintained, accompanied by the forecast that a change in financial year end would still leave the annualised figure at the same level, and analysts were given the strong impression that 1991 payments were pretty safe, too.

The £32 million cost of 1,250 redundancies helped chip pre-tax profits from £150.6 million to £86.4 million in the year to end-September. Restructuring will eventually take about £12 million a year from the company's cost base, and Mr Teare expects to make disposals worth £50 million of non-essential businesses during 1991, as he focuses more closely on industrial minerals and construction materials.

The decision to pull out of housebuilding leaves land holdings and stock worth more than £200 million to be sold by the end of 1993, with a quarter of that possibly achievable over the next 12 months.

A \$520 million question mark — the purchase of Georgia Kaolin, now with the American anti-trust authorities — still hangs over ECC, which badly needs the deal as a counterweight to increasing American encroachment into the European market.

A maintained dividend in 1991 would offer the shares the bolster of a near-9 per cent yield; but they still look a little expensive, given that even best estimates of £125 million pre-tax put them on a rating of almost 12 times' future earnings.

Hazlewood Foods

PETER Barr's Hazlewood Foods group was lucky to see its shares 8p higher at 134p on the back of interim results showing that pre-tax profits

Teare keeps the dividend flag flying at ECC



'Confidence in the future': Peter Barr of Hazlewood

had fallen 8 per cent to £22.5 million and that net earnings were 14 per cent lower at 77p a share. But then the interim dividend is raised 17 per cent from 1.8p to 2.1p a share to reflect "the board's confidence in the future". Stripped of last interim's £4.6 million of non-trading items, Hazlewood can claim an honest advance from a £20 million base and boast of an improved quality of earnings.

The recent sale for £59 million (of which £51 million was cash) of the confectionery and snacks division saw earnings fall from 121 per cent to 62 per cent. Two further, but smaller, asset sales are planned by the end of the year. Hazlewood has yet to convince everybody that it has a workable growth strategy. Scepticism remains because net earnings a share at year-end will show a downturn. However, if Hazlewood can reach the £51 million pre-tax mark at end-March (against an actual £57.1 million, or stripped of non-trading items a clean £44.4 million), it will provide evidence of improved

quality, and organic growth will have started to be proved. The next financial year could see profits advance to the £56.5 million level.

Some investors will still sit on their hands until the case is seen to be proven. But meanwhile, on 7.9 times prospective earnings, the shares are out entirely without attraction.

Babcock International

WITH the UK's economic recession officially confirmed, management at Babcock International, the heavy engineering firm, was yesterday playing the defensive stock card for all it was worth. The figures seem to justify the claim.

At £21.4 million, after £1.75 million of exceptional provisions, pre-tax profits were ahead of most expectations. The order book for the year is full and filling rapidly for the following year. The company has more than half its business overseas, seems to have put its Iraqi problems behind it, and is a major player in the green and, hopefully, recession-proof pollution control industry. Perhaps most reassuringly of all, Babcock has £55.3 million of cash on the balance sheet, generating £4.4 million of interest in the first half. Some analysts are even pencilling in what must be just about the first forecast upgrade in the sector this year.

Fostering Elders to adulthood

FOUR years ago, Elders IXL made its entrance to Britain with a failed bid for Allied Lyons. Management, led then by John Elliott, made an even bigger impression in the City with their larkish behaviour, typified by the use of four-letter words at analysts meetings and the stubbing out of cigarettes in the flat dregs of cans of Foster's lager.

Elders was compensated by the acquisition of Courage breweries, but like many Australian companies that grew rapidly in the late Eighties, debt and fragmented decision-making took their toll and transformed the brewing, finance, agriculture and resources conglomerate from a market favourite into a pariah.

Unlike many other antipodean companies, however, Elders worked hard to stop the rot and in just three months the group has been transformed and is slowly regaining investors' confidence.

The conclusion of the controversial pub-for-breweries swap by Elders and Grand Metropolitan in favour of Nobby Clarke, the aggressive chief executive of National

share price from below Aus\$1 a share to Aus\$1.61 yesterday. To put this recovery in perspective, however, shares closed at Aus\$1.61 in July, at the time a post-crash low.

The metamorphosis was heralded in March when the company said it was prepared to undergo a reconstruction that would turn Elders into a single-purpose brewing business under the banner of Foster's Brewing.

The first leg was the merger of Elders Resources NZFP with Carter Holt Harvey of New Zealand, to create an international forest products company with assets of more than NZ\$7 billion (£2.16 billion). This was followed by Hartin's sale of a 19.9 per cent stake in Elders to Asahi, the Japanese brewer. Hartin is the private company set up by Mr Elliott and his fellow executives that bought control of Elders in early last year.

This was followed by ConAgra's acquisition of the agriculture division for Aus\$300 million (£115.8 million) and Mr Elliott's resignation as chairman in favour of Nobby Clarke, the aggressive chief executive of National

for the remaining debt of Aus\$2.1 billion.

"But if they want to get their money out, the share price must reach about Aus\$2.25, and if there is to be anything left for any other lenders and investors, including the Harlin shareholders, then the shares must rise to more like Aus\$3.00," Mr Povey said.

Mr Elliott, now a non-executive director, planned to "Fosterise" the world and tried to buy Scottish & Newcastle Breweries in 1988 to give him the extra brewing capacity to do so. Once again, he was thwarted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which was busy rewriting the rulebook for the British brewing industry.

The link with GrandMet was deemed the most satisfactory conclusion and brought the Australian company before the MMC for the fourth time in as many years.

The long-awaited pub-for-breweries swap ends Elders' turbulent adolescence and lays the foundation for a productive adulthood for Foster's Brewing.

ANGELA MACKAY

EUROTUNNEL A NEW WAY INTO EUROPE

Eurotunnel will revolutionise the UK's passenger and freight transport links with continental Europe and is planned to be operational in 1993. You could share in it.

The Eurotunnel Rights Issue is now underway. If you are an existing shareholder, you are entitled to subscribe for a certain number of new Eurotunnel shares at the subscription price of 285p per share.

If you are not a shareholder and wish to participate in the Rights Issue, or if you wish to invest in addition to your entitlement as a shareholder, you must acquire the right to subscribe for new shares at the prevailing market price and pay the subscription price.

NEW TRAVEL PRIVILEGES

If you subscribe for at least 45 new shares in the Rights Issue, you may obtain new Eurotunnel Travel Privileges — see the table on the left for details. If you wish, you may nominate another individual to have these privileges instead of you.

TELEPHONE

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

If you want to subscribe for new shares in the Rights Issue simply telephone Eurotunnel ShareLink* on 0922 745 745. This service is open from 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on weekdays until 26th November.

Alternatively you could buy new Eurotunnel shares through your stockbroker, bank or other intermediary.

Investment in the Eurotunnel Rights Issue should be made only on the basis of information contained in the prospectus. If you do not have a prospectus, telephone the Eurotunnel Share Information Line on 0800 300 393.

For 1500 new shares
50% discount on
an unlimited number
of shuttle trips during
the life of the
Concession

For 700 new shares
50% discount on
one return shuttle trip
in each year during
the life of the
Concession

For 500 new shares
50% discount on
one return shuttle trip
in each of the first
fifteen years

For 250 new shares
50% discount on
one return shuttle trip
in each of the first five
years

For 150 new shares
50% discount on
one return shuttle trip
in each of the first two
years

For 45 new shares
50% discount on
one one-way shuttle
trip before the end of
the second year

See prospectus for full details



YOU COULD SHARE IN IT

* Until 4.00 p.m. on 26 November. * This service will be provided by ShareLink Limited. ShareLink is an execution-only stockbroker and does not provide financial advice. It is a member of The Stock Exchange and The Securities Association. Investment in Eurotunnel involves a significant degree of risk. The value of shares and right to subscribe for shares can go down as well as up. If you are considering investing in Eurotunnel, it is recommended that you consult an appropriate professional adviser. Issued by Eurotunnel P.L.C. and Eurotunnel S.A. and approved by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, a member of The Securities Association, for the purpose of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hooke out of the doldrums

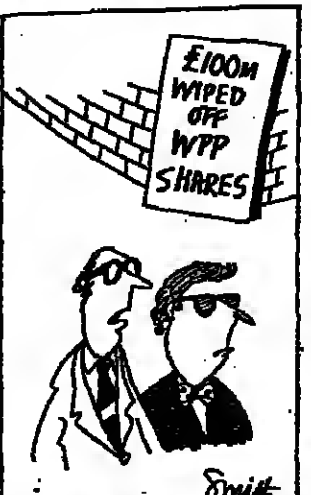
ROBERT Hooke, the stockbroker and art dealer who is attempting to sail round the world single-handed, has dismissed talk that he is about to throw in the towel. Hooke, head of Euro-equities at Banque Paribas Capital Markets, arrived safely in Cape Town this week at the end of the first leg of the BOC round-the-world race — minus a generator, autopilot and steering column. He was the last competitor to finish the 6,800-mile leg from Newport, Rhode Island — something he achieved in 64 days, one hour and 37 minutes — and now has three days in which to repair his craft. "The Doldrums were the most awful place I have ever been," says Hooke, a former American marine, who spent days becalmed off the North African coast. "They were absolutely devoid of any form of life. The sea was grey, there were no birds or fish and it was intensely humid." He is now gearing up for the second — and most dangerous leg of the race — which takes entrants through the Roaring Forties and Screaming Fifties en route to their next stop in Sydney.

A PARLOUR for dogs has opened in Bodmin called... Laundry Mutt.

By the book

ACTUARIES, it is sometimes said, take up their craft for fear that life as an accountant

would be too dynamic and exciting. Outraged by the suggestion that they may be considered boring, Britain's actuaries have launched a campaign to improve their image. A survey by the Faculty of Actuaries, based in Edinburgh, shows that they would like to be seen as challenging and influential, rather than drab and dull. "We think the public sees the job as technical, complex and lucrative," says Paul Grace, actuary at Scottish Equitable, who disagrees with the last adjective. He is critical of newspapers, which the survey says often describe actuaries as "calculating, theoretical, conservative, complicated, clinical, hypothetical, dry — or just plain dense". Of little help is the tale of Paul Downey, who became actuary for Nat-



"They may not be back after the break"

ional Mutual Life on January 26, 1989 — his thirtieth birthday. For in true actuarial tradition, his predecessor retired on his sixtieth birthday — January 26, 1989. Gripping stuff.

SIGN seen in a Relate office in Glasgow: "The hardest thing for most wives to get used to after marriage is being whistled for rather than at."

Pohl speak

THE Bank of England may know a thing or two about monetary policy, but has a hard time putting its ideas into plain English — as anyone who has struggled through the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin will agree. Now, some analysts in the City are turning to the Bundesbank's monthly report, prepared under the watchful eye of Karl Otto Pohl, its president. An avid fan is David Smith, chief economist at Williams de Broe, who says the publication is by far the best read. He likes the "coherent intellectual model" of how monetary policy works, and the political independence that allows the Bundesbank to express its views freely. Pohl, a former journalist who spent three days in London this month meeting people in the square mile, has proved his skills as a communicator in more ways than one. The children of one City analyst who saw him on television chatting to Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, said the German central banker spoke far better English.

IN THESE recessionary times, a West Country farmer has received this letter from his accountant: "I have just been going through your finances, and wonder how you feel about storing up nuts for the winter?"

Sharp dressers

LOYD'S of London, the sombre heart of the insurance community, is an unlikely setting for a fashion war. But war has broken out between the ranks of marine and oomarine syndicates over who is the better dressed. The Lloyd's underwriting community has never exactly gone in for flashy suits and colourful ties — despite the abundance of tallors and shirt-makers near No 1 Lime Street — but there are always exceptions. Models of sartorial elegance among the non-marines include Alec Sharp, a high-flying syndicate known for its love of floral ties and suede brogues. Scruffier examples on the marine side include Stephen "Major Tom" Merrett's syndicate 418 — known for its work underwriting satellites, and which has a reputation for stained suits and crumpled ties. Tom Aldridge, a deputy on Bill Mainland's syndicate 932, is a clear supporter of Hermes ties, while Chris Rome's syndicate 926 has a taste for dapper suits. Regulars at T.M. Lewis & Sons, the nearby shirt-maker, include brokers from Sedgwick and Willis Corroon, who stand out on a dull day for their striped silk shirts and day-glo braces.

JON ASHWORTH

[illegible][illegible]

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 94.2 (day's range 94.1-94.2).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES
Market rates for November 20

[illegible]

Germany	1.7030-1.7100	Germany	1.4750-1.4760	Belgium (Corn)	1105.8-1110.8
Switzerland	2.6880-2.6900	Switzerland	1.2402-1.2487	Hong Kong	7.7885-7.7895
Netherlands	1.2373-1.2390	Netherlands	1.6845-1.6865		

Sweden	1.1803-1.1813	France	4.9740-4.9760	Portugal	130.00-130.20
Denmark	5.5375-5.5425	Japan	128.58-128.63	Spain	83.55-83.65
Norway	5.7740-5.7790			Austria	10.39-10.41

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)
 Open: \$380.75-381.25 Close: \$377.75-378.25
 High: \$381.00-381.50 Low: \$376.75-377.25

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)

Britannia: 14mm 13% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12%	\$389.00-384.00 (\$187.50-200.50)
Kruggerand: 14mm 13% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12%	\$377.00-380.00 (\$181.50-193.00)
Napoleion: 14mm 13% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12%	\$389.00-384.00 (\$187.50-200.50)
American Eagle: 14mm 13% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12% 12mm 12% 12%	\$389.00-384.00 (\$187.50-200.50)

Reference rate Sept 29, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990:
 IV & V: 74.184 per cent.

spot silver: \$4.10-4.12 (\$2,000-2,095)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
1000				

Open	High	Low	Close

Previous open interest		167217		83-10		83-31		83-76		83-29	
88.91	88.97	88.86	88.94	77702							
88.24	88.31	88.22	88.30	12305							

Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest 43934		Month Swiss Franc		Previous open interest 17967	
Dec 91	\$2.04	\$2.04	\$1.99	\$2.00	94-23	95-18	20720
Jan 92	\$2.26	\$2.26	\$2.26	\$2.27	95-14	95-27	342
Month Euro DM		Previous open interest 77424		Japanese Govt Bond		Previous open interest 713	
Oct 90	\$0.99	\$0.97	\$0.88	\$0.95	92-36	\$2.25	\$2.30
Nov 90			\$0.88	\$0.95			64
		Previous open interest 81724		German Govt Bond		Previous open interest 100	
Dec 90			\$0.88	\$0.95			

COMMODITIES

		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		
		Official prices/volume previous day (£/tonne)	Cash	Rudolf Wolff Vol
COCOA	AMT Futures			
Dec 701-700	Dec 815-814			
Mar 750-749	Dec 841-838			
May 774-773	Mar 868-865			
Jul 785-784	Vol 11544.			
COPPER				
	Copper Gdn A	1314.0-1315.0	1314.0-1315.0	Vol

Nov 310-600	Aluminium H ⁺	6190.0-6195.0	10965
Vol 2870	Nickel ⁺	1000.0-1001.0	1021325

Feb. 1926
 Dec. 22.0-18.0 Aug. 22.0-21.0
 Mar. 21.0-16.5 Oct. 22.0-13.2
 May 21.0-0.8 Dec. 22.0-08.0
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
 LONDON MEAT
 FUTURES (pig)
 MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
 Live Pig Contract
 Arge livestock prices at moment

BARLEY close (C/)	Vol 99	Feb	unq	83.5	GB (+/-)	-7.16	142.04	103.11
Nr 113.00	Ja 116.00	Mar	unq	83.5	Eng/Wal (%)	-4.98	-2.40	-0.58
Nr 120.00	Mr 119.00				Eng/Wal (%)	-8.0	-26.0	-6.0

SOYABEAN	AMT Futures	Live Cattle Contract	Eng/Wal (2-1)	70.12	143.13	101.83
Dec unq		Oct unq	Scotland (2-1)	-4.56	-2.40	-0.89
Feb unq		Nov unq	Scotland (2)	-8.0	-57.0	-8.0
		Jan unq	Scotland (2-1)	88.56	136.91	107.22
				-0.85	-4.56	-0.44

* Estimated dead carcasses

	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1
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[illegible]

1990										1990										1990																	
High		Low		Company		Price		Gross		Yld		High		Low		Company		Price		Gross		Yld		High		Low		Company		Price		Gross		Yld			
Ind	City	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E	Ind	City	Divs	Div	%	P/E
8	9	0.9	11.3	2.4																																	
14	17																																				
20	22																																				
30	31																																				
40	41																																				

Scheme I: 15.08 per cent. Schemes II & III: 15.32 per cent. Reference rate Sept 20, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990.
 Scheme IV & V: 74.184 per cent.

PRECIOUS METALS
 Platinum pmf for \$419.50 (\$212.20)
 Palladium pmf for \$33.00 (\$17.50)

[illegible]

112	122	74	34.8	27	124	62	92	3.2	2.8	31.5	268	252	268	261
112	122	84	72	86	145	109	108	+1	4.2	3.1	352	235	352	251
230	236	113	48	74	103	50	52	+1	1.7	3.3	194	194	194	194
31	31	10.7	21	12.1	103	262	50	+1	1.7	3.3	194	194	194	194

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Dry cargo index 1305 +8
 Open interest abou
 Vol 115 Feb unq
 Jan unq
 Scotland (+/-) -0.95
 Vol 0 Vol Pig-22 Cattle-0
 Scotland (p) 80.55 126.91 107.22
 -0.95 -4.56 -0.44
 * Expressed dead carcass weight

هكذا أمر الأصل

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 21 1990

Court of Appeal

Illegitimate father wins rights order

Same issue cannot be tried twice

Amending writ to correct name of plaintiffs

In re H (Minors) (Local Authority: Parental Rights)

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Mann

[Judgment November 20]

A father of illegitimate children who had shown a degree of commitment and an attachment to them should be granted a parental rights order under section 4 of the Family Law Reform Act 1987.

The inevitable decision that his consent to the children being freed for adoption was being unreasonably withheld was not a ground for refusing him such an order.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing a father's appeal from part of the decision of Judge Morison in the Slough County Court in January 1990 refusing him a parental rights order in respect of his two young children. His appeal against the judge's order that the children be freed for adoption under section 18 of the Adoption Act 1976 was refused.

Section 4 of the 1987 Act provides: "(1) Where the father and mother of a child were not married to each other at the time of his birth, the court may, on the application of the father, order that he shall have all the

parental rights and duties with respect to the child."

Mr Philip Vallance, QC and Miss Sally Smith for the father; Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC and Miss M. S. E. McNabb for the local authority; Mr Alan Levy, QC and Mr David G. P. Turner for the guardian ad litem.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was common ground that the appellant was the father of the two children. He was not married to the mother but they had lived together as a family unit until the two children were aged two and 13 months.

In 1985 the mother placed the children in the voluntary care of the local authority under section 2 of the Child Care Act 1980. All attempts to rehabilitate them with her failed. However, until 1986, when it was decided that the children needed a permanent home, the father had regular, twice weekly, access to them.

In 1989 the local authority made its applications to free the two children for adoption and shortly after the father applied for parental rights orders.

Until recent changes in the law, the father of a child born out of wedlock had only limited

rights in relation to the child. But the Family Law Reform Act 1987 and the Children Act 1989 set out to ensure such a father with the father of a legitimate child: he could apply for an order giving him all parental rights and duties with respect to the child.

In considering whether to make an order under section 4 of the 1987 Act the court had to take into account a number of factors including the commitment the father had shown, the degree of attachment existing between the father and child and the reasons for his applying for the order.

Here the father could not offer the children a home: what he wanted was continued access. The judge had formed an unfavourable view of him, describing him as unintelligent, self-regarding and as having "not much to offer as a parent". But he was wrong in holding that section 4 was only intended to operate if all the parental rights which were to be granted to the father were immediately capable of being exercised by him.

As Mr Justice Ward pointed out in *Hereford and Worcester City Council v D* (The Times November 2) parental rights and duties included both legal custody and a right of access. Yet a parent who had custody would not need a right of access.

If the judge's construction was right the father of an illegitimate child who was in care would only be entitled to apply for access under Part IA of the Child Care Act 1980 if he already had a parental rights order made before the child was taken into care because, *ex hypothesi*, he would not be entitled to custody so long as the care order subsisted. Yet up to the moment the care order was made the father may have

played a full part in the child's life.

So restricted an interpretation of section 4 was not intended by Parliament and would be contrary to the whole purpose of the 1987 Act.

There was some force in the argument that if the judge decided on the merits that, even if the father had a *locus standi* to oppose the order freeing the children for adoption, his consent to that order would be unreasonably withheld, there would be little point in making an order giving him parental rights which would instantly thereafter be taken from him.

However, the judge's attention had not been drawn to sections 19 and 20 of the Adoption Act 1976 which gave to a former parent of the child certain limited rights after the making of a section 18 order. Those sections justified making a parental rights order in favour of the father, notwithstanding a decision immediately thereafter to dispense with his consent to the making of an order freeing the children for adoption.

The judge was wrong to refuse the father's application on the grounds that he gave. The facts demonstrated a degree of commitment to the children and an attachment between him and them amply sufficient to justify his being given a *locus standi* of the hearing of the local authority's application for an order freeing the children for adoption.

However, on the evidence before him the judge could have come to no other finding than that the father's consent to an adoption order was being unreasonably withheld under section 18(1)(b) of the 1976 Act.

Solicitors: Winter-Taylor, High Wycombe; Griffiths, Robertson, Reading; Mr Anthony T. Evans, Bracknell.

Thomas v Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Stocker and Sir George Waller

[Judgment November 8]

Where solicitors mistakenly issued proceedings on behalf of a plaintiff company which had ceased to exist as a result of a merger, the writ, although initially a nullity, could be amended under Order 20, rule 5(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to indicate the correct plaintiffs since the solicitors' mistake had gone to name rather than to identity.

That being the case, the better view was that such an amendment related back to the date of the writ, so that there never was a non-existent plaintiff.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the defendants against an order of Mr Justice Sheen made on July 19, 1989 whereby he granted the plaintiffs' summons to correct the name of the plaintiffs and dismissed the defendants' summons to strike out the plaintiffs' action.

Mr Hugh Bennett, QC and Mr Mark Templeman for the defendants; Mr Jeremy Cooke, QC, for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that Mr Cooke had not, of course, been able to challenge the principle established by *Leazard Bros & Co v Midland Bank Ltd* (1933) AC 389 that a non-existent party could neither sue nor be sued. Nor had he sought to do so.

If the plaintiffs could bring themselves within the provisions of Order 20, rule 5(3), the principle of that case had no application. The defendants could not argue that the plain-

Owners of Sardinia Sulcis v Owners of Al Tawwab

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tiffs had ceased to exist without begging the question, in other words without presupposing that the court would not exercise its powers to amend.

Order 20, rule 5 provided: "(3) An amendment to correct the name of a party may be allowed ... notwithstanding that it is alleged that the effect of the amendment will be to substitute a new party if the court is satisfied that the mistake sought to be corrected was a genuine mistake and was not misleading or such as to cause any reasonable doubt as to the identity of the person intending to sue or, as the case may be, intended to be sued."

In *Evans Ltd v Charrington & Co Ltd* (1983) 1 QB 810 the plaintiff had applied for a new tenancy under section 29(3) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. He had thought his landlords were Charrington & Co. In fact they were Bass Holdings.

Lord Justice Waller had held that that was not a mistake in the name. It was a mistake as to identity. The majority had taken a different view.

Lord Justice Griffiths had said (at p825): "The identity of the person intended to be sued is of course vital. But in this case I have no doubt that the identity of the person intended to be sued was the current landlord, Bass. The wording of the rule makes it clear that it is not the identity of the person sued that is crucial, but the identity of the person intended to be sued, which is a very different matter."

In *Thistle Hotels Ltd v Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd* (The Times April 11, 1989) the question had arisen in relation to an intended plaintiff. In 1979 a fire had occurred at a hotel

owned by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, but operated by a dormant company called Thistle Hotels Ltd.

The solicitors acting for the intended plaintiffs had chosen to sue in the name of Thistle Hotels Ltd. Lord Justice Russell, with whom Lord Justice Mann had agreed, had held that it was a mistake as to name only.

Returning to the facts of the instant case, there could be no reasonable doubt as to the identity of the person intending to sue, namely, the person in whom the rights of ownership had been vested when the writ had been issued.

It followed that the solicitors' mistake had been a mistake as to name and not a mistake as to identity.

Considering the defendants' summons in the light of those conclusions, his Lordship said that he had assumed that an amendment under the rule to correct the name of a party related back to the date of the writ.

That had been the view taken by Mr Justice Hirst in *Kazenstein Adler Industries (1975) Ltd v Barchard Lines Ltd* (1988) 2 Lloyd's Rep 274, following an observation of Lord Justice Brandon in *Liff v Peasley* (1980) 1 WLR 781.

That was, his Lordship thought, the better view, although the point was not at all easy and had not been the subject of any argument before the court. If it was right that the amendment related back, then there never was a non-existent plaintiff.

Lord Justice Stocker and Sir George Waller delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Lloyd & Co; Richards Butler.

Meaning of words in contract not same as in a charterparty

Etallements Soules et Cie v Intertrax SA

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Staughton

[Judgment November 8]

Parties saying "... free out Lorien" in a sale contract were not to be taken as meaning that those words should be used in the technical sense which they would have had in a charterparty, although that was contrary to the findings of trade arbitrators.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Intertrax SA, the sellers, from Mr Justice Hobhouse who, on October 4, 1989 set aside a decision in their favour made by the Board of Appeal of the Grain and Feed Trades Association (GAFTA) who had upheld the findings of first-tier arbitrators in the sellers' dispute with the buyers, Etallements Soules et Cie.

Mr Duncan Matthews for the buyers; Mark Havelock-Allan for the sellers.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the motor vessel *Handy Mariner* arrived at the port of Lorien in France on September 30, 1987. She had to wait for a berth until October 13, owing to congestion in the port, before the cargo could be discharged.

The question in the appeal related to the financial loss resulting from that delay. Had the problem arisen in the context of a charterparty there would have been a great deal of learning in the books to provide an answer. But it arose here under a sale contract, where the question was novel one.

It came down to this: should one attribute to the buyers and sellers in their sale contract an intention to use words in the technical sense which they bore in charterparties, or in some different sense?

The contract was concluded on June 25, 1987, between the companies for the sale and purchase of 5000 tonnes of Chinese sweet potatoes. One of the terms provided "CIF free out Lorien". Demurrage was set at US\$3.500 per day. Other terms included accordance with Form 100 of GAFTA.

The sellers submitted that time started to count when the vessel arrived at Lorien, or at latest with the next working period after arrival, that is, October 13; so the waiting time until October 13 counted, and also the time taken in discharging, which lasted until October 23.

The buyers, on the other hand, contended that time could not start to count until the vessel had berthed on October 13.

The first-tier arbitrators of GAFTA decided in favour of the sellers. Their award was upheld by the Board of Appeal of GAFTA.

On appeal to the High Court, Mr Justice Hobhouse upheld the buyers' contention and substituted an award in their favour for US\$26,064.07 which was the full amount of their claim. The sellers appealed.

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If the contract to be construed had been a charterparty there could be no doubt of this answer. A contract to proceed to Lorien had the effect that the carrying stage of the voyage ended when the vessel reached port.

It was for the charterer then to discharge the cargo and delay in gaining a berth counted against his discharging time. If, on the other hand, the contract was to proceed to one safe berth Lorien, for example, time did not start until the berth was reached.

His Lordship thought it right to start by considering the printed Form 100 of GAFTA. Clause 3, labelled "price", had a space for a figure followed by "gross weight, cost, insurance and freight to ...". When the parties inserted a destination they generally named only a port or ports, without any reference to berths.

In such a case, where only a port was named in or pursuant to clause 3, his Lordship did not consider that the parties intended the result which would ensue with a charterparty if only a port was named as the destination, that time started when the vessel reached the port.

His Lordship found the right interpretation of the contract a difficult question, principally because both trade tribunals had found in favour of the sellers.

They must therefore have considered that the parties did indeed intend, when they named Lorien as the destination, that the consequence would be the same as if Lorien had been named as the destination in a charterparty.

Although the question was one of law for the court, weight always had to be given to the opinion of trade arbitrators. That was particularly important when considering whether traders were likely to have used words in a particular technical sense.

Nevertheless, like the judge, his Lordship concluded in the end that the parties did not intend to alter what he considered to be the effect of naming a port as the destination in Form 100.

To undertake a liability for demurrage while the vessel was in port but waiting for a berth would be an open-ended commitment in a contract for the purchase of what must probably be a part cargo.

It would also be open-ended for a full cargo but in the case of a part cargo the problem was worse and the result might be capricious. The buyer did not know when he made the contract how much other cargo would be carried in order to share his liability *pro rata*, unless some or all of it had been discharged at a previous port.

His Lordship would require rather clearer words before assuming that the buyers had assumed such a liability in the present case.

Lord Justice Stocker agreed and Lord Justice Neill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Holmes Hardingham, Middleton Ports.

Agricultural notice to quit valid

Crawford v Elliott

A general notice to quit the occupancy of certain premises under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 did not have to refer to that Act and the court could not imply any statutory requirement, which was absent, to that effect.

Under common law the only requirement was to make reference to the premises and to specify the requirement of possession of those premises by a certain date.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Crockett-Johnson) so held on November 8 when allowing the appeal of the landlord against the dismissal by Judge Forster in Carlisle County Court on December 12, 1989 of her claim for possession of farm premises in Cumbria and his declaration that her general notice to quit served upon its occupant was invalid.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the occupancy had come into existence by way of permission granted in January 1975 which had been acknowledged by the occupant. It was a classic form of licence agreement.

The question a court had to ask was whether a general notice to quit was the end of that occupancy and a reasonable tenant reading it and whether it was plain that that reasonable tenant could not be misled by that notice.

Privilege lost after papers were disclosed

Black & Decker Inc v Flynn Ltd

If a privilege was a right to refuse to disclose, then it was impossible for such a right to be asserted in respect of a document which had already been disclosed.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so stated in the Chancery Division on November 13 on a motion by the defendant for specific discovery in a patent infringement action relating to a wheeled rotary lawnmower in which the defendant was claimant for revocation on the ground of obviousness. Pursuant to directions, an exchange of witness statements had taken place in accordance with Order 38, rule 2A of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

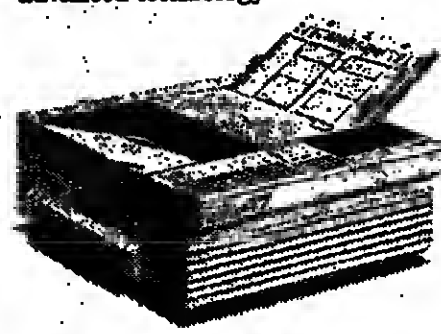
HIS LORDSHIP said that once a document had passed into the hands of the other party the question was no longer one of privilege but one of admissibility.

Despite Order 38, rule 2A(8) which provided: "Nothing in this rule shall deprive any party of his right to treat any communication as privileged or make admissible evidence otherwise inadmissible" his Lordship refused to treat the witness statements as privileged and made an order for discovery of documents relating to a proposed new lawnmower shortly to be marketed by the plaintiff.

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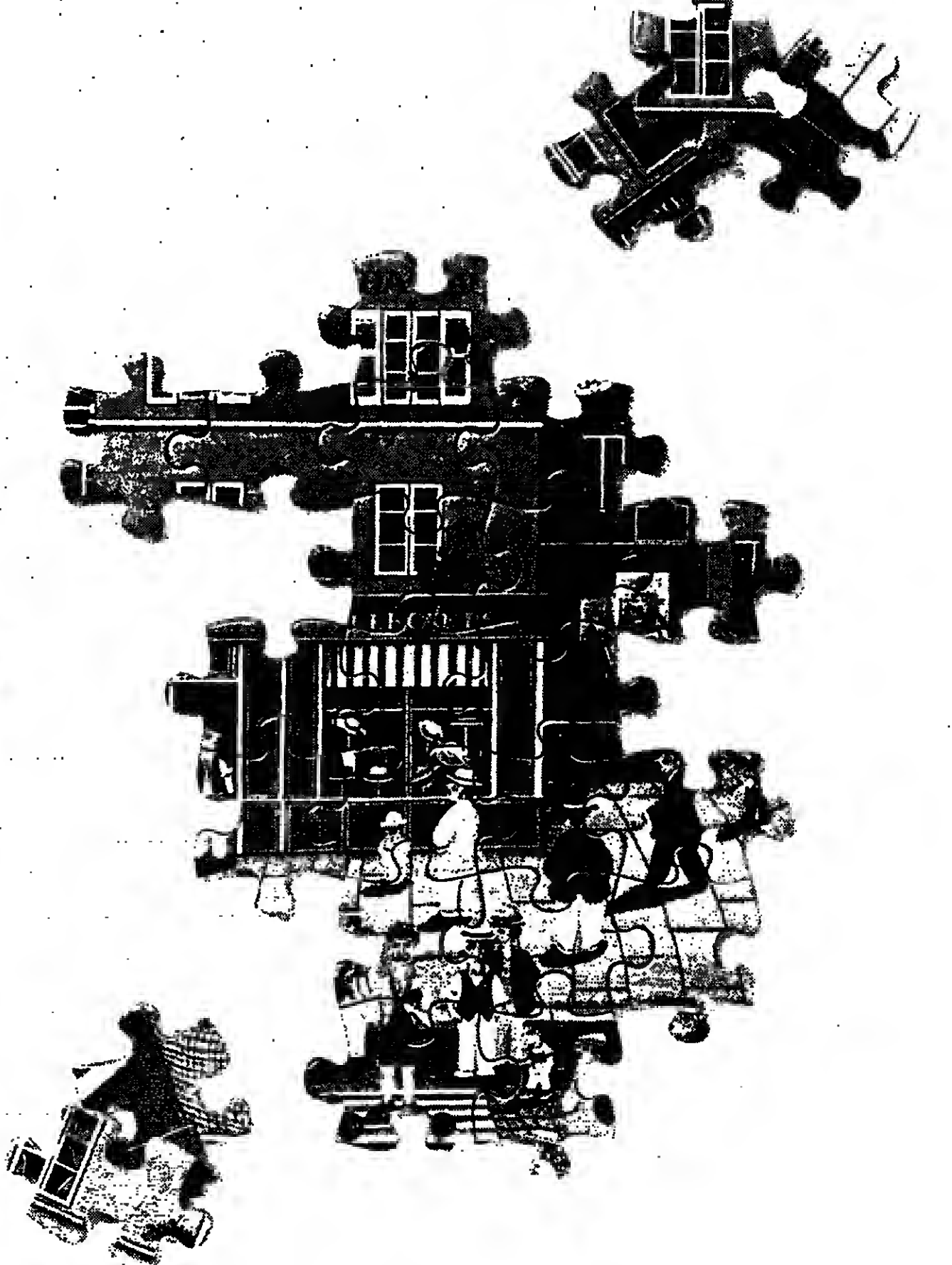
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The personal touch is the key to motivation at work

Management education has undergone more re-evaluation in the past three years than at any time since the Fifties. A vital part of this reform has been the attempt to understand the role that managers play in helping organisations to achieve their objectives.

One of the most important findings, on both sides of the Atlantic, is that managers are distinguished not only by their understanding of functions such as marketing, finance, and research and development, but also by their personality and behaviour.

A recent survey of leading American and European managers by the Cranfield School of Management, in Bedfordshire, found that personal skills are the most important in helping executives to shape the vision and future of their companies.

Executives who excelled:

- have tact and sensitivity in managing people and teams;
- clearly communicate the mission of the organisation and the objectives to be achieved;
- make themselves available to receive feedback;
- behave in ways that support the policies and objectives they wish others to adopt.

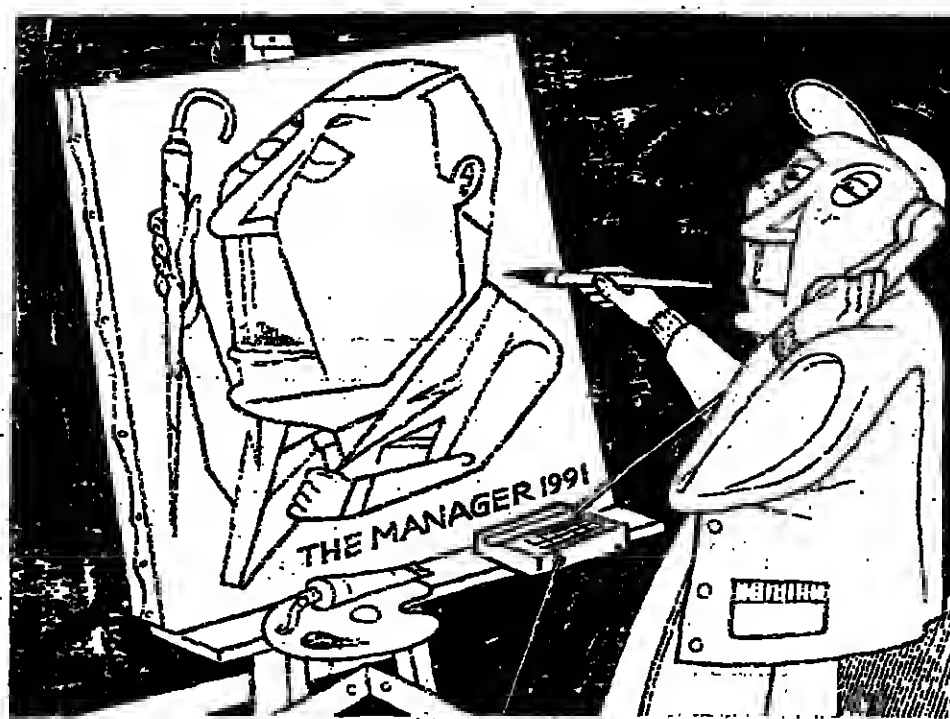
Good teamwork was found to be critical. Professor Andrew Kakabadse, the author of the survey, says that in a business environment of diversity, complexity and change, the senior managers' ability to work together to achieve a common vision was essential.

"Respect for each other and a sense of maturity are important attributes," he says. "Executives need to recognise that contributions from people who think and feel differently from themselves are equally valuable in any strategic debate."

"This becomes even more important in multinational companies, where an openness to other cultures and attitudes is a prerequisite to commercial success."

The difficulty for management schools is that it is far easier to teach management techniques and finance than it is to influence their behaviour.

Dr Lynda Gratton, an assistant professor in organisational behaviour at the London Business School, argues that senior managers will acquire the right personal attributes only through a process of job rotation, secondments, personal assessment and individual tuition.



Tactful managers who understand people and persuade staff to work in teams will reap big rewards, Michel Syrett writes

cess of job rotation, secondments, personal assessment and individual tuition.

Dr Gratton says: "Many young people entering organisations with high-flying talent will fail to reach positions of seniority in 15 to 20 years' time because development programmes have provided them with the wrong skills, or the career framework is too rigid to let them grow in the way they would like."

Experience suggests that employers will succeed in providing managers with complex qualities, such as leadership, vision, lateral thinking and openness to change, only if they understand how people learn as well as what skills they require.

"If you want to develop managers who are capable of dealing with uncertainty and diversity, you have to recognise that there are many more ways to open up an individual's mind than placing them on a three-week general management programme," says Jean Lammiman, the UK chief executive of the management education consultancy Ambrosio and a former deputy director of the consortium MBA of the City University.

"Formal management courses have their place, but the options open to trainers are often far wider than they realise," she says. "Many organisations find secondments a useful means of providing key managers with a broader outlook. Working for a different organisation in a different culture takes them out of their comfort zone and promotes their personal growth."

Ms Lammiman's views are supported by a recent report published by the Centre for the Study of Management Learning for Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), which suggests that key attributes, such as problem-solving and creativity, can be acquired more easily on a VSO assignment than through many kinds of short management courses or postgraduate study.

Where does this leave the person on the receiving end of all this systematic development? Management experts such as Charles Handy and Bob Garrett, the author of *The Learning Organisation*, exhort companies to create "a culture of learning", in which managers play a part in identifying their training needs and ways to fulfil them.



John Chadwick: 'Need to improve people skills'



Dr Lynda Gratton: 'Many fail to reach seniority'



Prof Andrew Kakabadse: 'Openness and attitudes'

International schools capture global market

Business schools and management centres are finding it hard to keep pace with the revolution caused by internationalism, new technology and changing social attitudes (Michel Syrett writes).

Keeping up with the management training needs of global companies is the most urgent problem. Many leading business schools are less international in their outlook and culture than their multinational clients. Business education institutions such as Insead in France and IMD in Switzerland are the preferred choice of many senior executives because they are seen to provide a more cosmopolitan learning environment than their competitors.

The Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) programme that started at Insead in September, for example, was made up of students from 35 nationalities, of whom 16 per cent were British, 16 per cent French, 12 per cent from the United States and Canada, and the remainder drawn from regions including Scandinavia, central Europe and Asia.

National schools, such as London, Manchester and Cranfield, near Bedford, Essex and Esade in Spain and Bocconi in Italy, have only recently started to recruit or exchange faculty and students in significant numbers.

Ten years ago, British schools were less committed in the way they exchanged faculty and students with counterparts abroad," says Professor Leo Murray, the director of Cranfield School of Management. "Many of us are now doing this more systematically as part of an effort to become more international, but this is not something that you can achieve overnight."

Earlier this year, Cranfield

The best business courses now mirror the world concerns of multinationals

launched a joint MBA programme with Groupe ESC Lyon, a leading French business school. Similar ventures are becoming common. Ashridge Management College at Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, has joined with the Universitätsseminar de Wirtschaft, in Cologne, and the Centre de Perfectionnement aux Affaires, in Paris, to launch a trans-European programme for the development of senior managers. Henley Management School is developing a modular MBA, enabling students from abroad to study locally for one year, before completing their education in the UK.

Technology is another blind spot. "Few business degrees cover much technology and hardly any MBAs or executive programmes offer much in this area," says Professor Ray Wild, the principal of Henley Management College and the editor of the recently published book *Technology and Management*. "As a result, it is rare to find one person that understands both technology and business."

Tom Cannon, the director of Manchester Business School, agrees. "The great black hole of management education is the whole field of manufacturing, research and development, and technology management are desperately ill-treated."

Above all, business schools have been fighting a running battle to shake off the most damning criticism made of them — that their open and company programmes are

based on functional specialisms, and are little more than a collection of disparate inputs from tutors whose knowledge is confined by narrowly-defined faculties.

Henry Mintzberg, a leading management guru, of McGill University, in Canada, who is currently working at London Business School, regularly accuses American lecturers of being "second-rate academics obsessed with case studies rather than real life". He also sees management training of post-graduates as a useless exercise unless they have had three years' work experience.

Professor Charles Handy, the author of the 1987 report on management education, which set in train many of the current reforms, is also concerned. "At a senior level, I do not think business schools or the main management centres pay enough attention to examining the way people learn," he says.

"They spend too much of their time teaching skills and not enough acting as 'centres of learning', providing a reflective atmosphere in which experienced managers can organise their own thinking."

Criticisms such as these helped shape the thinking of Dr John Hendry when he was asked to design the MBA programme for the new business school at Cambridge University. Three terms at Cambridge will be interspersed with two 12-month periods at work.

"Management is an intensely practical activity in which the most significant learning often occurs through experiences at work," Dr Hendry says. "We hope to provide students with the opportunity to test the skills they acquire in real management situations."



Henry Mintzberg criticises "academics obsessed with case studies rather than real life"

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No.	Company	Group	Code as on Nov
1	Shell (as)	Oil/Gas	
2	Tilbury Group	Building/Roads	
3	Woolsey	Industrials S-Z	
4	Enterprise (as)	Oil/Gas	
5	Power Corp	Property	
6	Classo (as)	Industrials E-K	
7	Re Land (as)	Property	
8	BAA (as)	Transport	
9	Coast Group	Transport	
10	Bootham	Drugs/Stores	
11	Shirley	Food	
12	Union Dair	Building/Roads	
13	Harland Stone	Electricals	
14	MEPC (as)	Property	
15	Southwell (as)	Industrials S-Z	
16	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
17	Mansfield (G)	Building/Roads	
18	Pittman (as)	Industrials L-R	
19	Land Sec (as)	Property	
20	Barr & W.A.	Industrials	
21	Bank of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
22	Re-Sell	Industrials L-R	
23	Barry Group	Building/Roads	
24	Or Western Res	Oil/Gas	
25	Kwik Save	Food	
26	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	Building/Roads	
27	Rainbow	Industrials L-R	
28	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
29	South West	Water	
30	Inland Press	Food	
31	Net Am Bk	Bank/Discount	
32	Bentley	Drugs/Stores	
33	BICC (as)	Electricals	
34	Wapac	Bank/Discount	
35	Wes Ind (as)	Building/Roads	
36	Swan Trust	Property	
37	Shard Court (as)	Bank/Discount	
38	RHM (as)	Food	
39	F & A Ltd (as)	Transport	
40	BOC (as)	Industrials A-D	
41	Wimpey G (as)	Building/Roads	
42	Comin	Building/Roads	
43	THORN EM (as)	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Michael Goodwin Wilks of Aikward, York.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Gains trimmed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 19. Dealings end December 7. Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 28)

No.	Company	Price	Change	%	Vol
1	Shell (as)	15.10	+0.05	+0.33	1,234,567
2	Tilbury Group	12.50	-0.10	-0.80	98,765
3	Woolsey	8.75	+0.25	+2.86	45,678
4	Enterprise (as)	10.20	-0.05	-0.49	112,345
5	Power Corp	14.80	+0.10	+0.68	234,567
6	Classo (as)	9.50	-0.15	-1.58	67,890
7	Re Land (as)	11.00	+0.05	+0.45	89,012
8	BAA (as)	13.20	-0.20	-1.52	156,789
9	Coast Group	16.50	+0.10	+0.61	345,678
10	Bootham	7.80	-0.05	-0.64	23,456
11	Shirley	6.50	+0.10	+1.54	12,345
12	Union Dair	10.00	-0.10	-1.00	56,789
13	Harland Stone	12.00	+0.20	+1.67	78,901
14	MEPC (as)	9.00	-0.05	-0.56	34,567
15	Southwell (as)	11.50	+0.15	+1.30	67,890
16	Broken Hill	14.00	-0.10	-0.71	123,456
17	Mansfield (G)	8.50	+0.05	+0.59	45,678
18	Pittman (as)	10.50	-0.05	-0.48	89,012
19	Land Sec (as)	12.50	+0.10	+0.80	156,789
20	Barr & W.A.	15.00	-0.10	-0.67	234,567
21	Bank of Ireland	18.00	+0.10	+0.56	345,678
22	Re-Sell	9.50	-0.05	-0.53	67,890
23	Barry Group	11.00	+0.10	+0.91	123,456
24	Or Western Res	13.50	-0.10	-0.74	156,789
25	Kwik Save	7.50	+0.05	+0.67	23,456
26	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	10.00	-0.05	-0.50	45,678
27	Rainbow	12.00	+0.10	+0.83	78,901
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34	Wapac	16.00	-0.10	-0.63	345,678
35	Wes Ind (as)	18.00	+0.10	+0.56	456,789
36	Swan Trust	20.00	-0.10	-0.50	567,890
37	Shard Court (as)	22.00	+0.10	+0.45	678,901
38	RHM (as)	24.00	-0.10	-0.42	789,012
39	F & A Ltd (as)	26.00	+0.10	+0.38	890,123
40	BOC (as)	28.00	-0.10	-0.36	901,234
41	Wimpey G (as)	30.00	+0.10	+0.33	1,012,345
42	Comin	32.00	-0.10	-0.31	1,123,456
43	THORN EM (as)	34.00	+0.10	+0.29	1,234,567

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33	Swan Trust	20.00	-0.10	-0.50	567,890
34	Shard Court (as)	22.00	+0.10	+0.45	678,901
35	RHM (as)	24.00	-0.10	-0.42	789,012
36	F & A Ltd (as)	26.00	+0.10	+0.38	890,123
37	BOC (as)	28.00	-0.10	-0.36	901,234
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23	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	10.00	-0.05	-0.50	45,678
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35	RHM (as)	24.00	-0.10	-0.42	789,012
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39	Comin	32.00	-0.10	-0.31	1,123,456
40	THORN EM (as)	34.00	+0.10	+0.29	1,234,567

186	Colchester Railway	10.00	+0.00	0.00	112,345
187	Colony	10.00	+0.00	0.00	234,567
188	Compass Day	10.00	+0.00	0.00	67,890
189	Compass PLC	10.00	+0.00	0.00	89,012
190	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	156,789
191	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	345,678
192	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	23,456
193	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	12,345
194	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	56,789
195	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	78,901
196	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	123,456
197	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	156,789
198	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	234,567
199	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	345,678
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201	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	89,012
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248	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	234,567
249	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	345,678
250	Compass	10.00	+0.00	0.00	67,890

New ways to teach the East

Europe's emerging democracies need management training, but perhaps not in the western style, Widget Finn says

Last year's map of Europe is as out of date as an atlas with British colonies in pink. The British Empire has gone, but are we adopting a colonial approach to eastern Europe, assuming that a style of business education that works for us is right for them? Given the speed of change and the demand for management programmes in eastern Europe, there is a temptation to offer ready-made training packages. Graham Milborrow, the director of professional development at the British Institute of Management, found that even training material that requires no previous knowledge in the subject needs modifications.

"We created a programme for young Polish managers using newly designed British Institute of Management material," Mr Milborrow says. "We soon discovered that it tacitly assumed a value structure, such as the morality of profit, which was entirely western. The underlying culture has to be addressed before one can start at skill and expertise levels."

Professor Bertram Pockney introduces managers to the business cultures of eastern Europe at the Centre for International Briefing, at Farnham Castle, Surrey. He detects a lingering British view that foreigners are all the same. "British businessmen as a homogenous blob," he says, "Patrons of history and the influences of the Austro-Hungarian empire and German-Prussian domination are still strong, so that the business and social cultures vary enormously in every country."

"Russians have everything to learn about enterprise, while the Armenians and Georgians have been practising it for years."

Anatoly Kanashenkov, the general director of Phazotron, the Soviet electronics company, also stresses the need to overcome cultural differences



and the importance of working alongside western training experts to create learning programmes. Mr Kanashenkov recently attended a general management course on the Soviet Union's electronics industry at the Cranfield School of Management. The course was a learning process for both sides, and future programmes will be designed in response to the growing Soviet understanding of western business and its own training needs.

A sensitivity to local business culture and training requirements is essential, but even the best designed programme could have a limited market. The old imperial view that all foreigners speak English — and if they do not, they should — has not disappeared. English is the main international language of business, but there are a number of levels of management in European countries where the courses will have to be taught in the local language.

Money from the government's Know-How Fund is being used to translate learning packages, but programmes in British management schools are conducted in English with simultaneous translation.

An ingrained British attitude leads to patronising others on the basis that different means inferior.

Professor Richard Ennals, of Kingston Polytechnic, Surrey, gives a warning against underestimating our eastern European colleagues. "These people come from countries where educational levels, particularly in mathematics, philosophy and similar disciplines, are very high," he says. "Now that they have access to our technology and management training, their potential for development is enormous. We must not be complacent."

Perhaps we are also being complacent in assuming that the western approach to business learning is appropriate for different commercial climates. Eastern Europe offers an opportunity to reconsider

Small business to play a role

The government has established 80 enterprise councils throughout Britain to give a local perspective to training

After 17 years of direct intervention in training, the government has decided to hand over the responsibility to the people who should know best: the local business community.

The Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs), following the disappearance of the Training Agency, formerly known as the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) and then the Training Commission, represent a radical revision of the way training should be managed.

The network of 80 TECs, and local enterprise councils in Scotland, will soon be in place, two years ahead of schedule. Most important decisions about training will be taken at this local level.

Exactly how much TECs will do for management training is difficult to predict. A priority will be youth training schemes, concentrating on young people and the less skilled. Management training, by contrast, will be more discretionary and it may be that only the most determined make headway in this field.

Intended to be entrepreneurial, TECs are mostly developing a market-led approach to training based on analysis of their area's skills needs. Many of them are striving for quality assurance registration with the British Standard, BS5750.

The arrival of the management standards of the Management Charter Initiative (MCI), which is the operating arm of the National Forum for Management Education and Development, should also make a difference. In October, Roger Dave, the then director-general of the Training Agency, said: "Looking ahead, the role of TECs and their contribution to human resource development, and management development in particular, will be vital. There is a similarity of mission between TECs and MCI and their networks will need to work together to tackle local issues."

Yet it is bound to take some time for the standards-based approach to management to be adopted as the principal method of training and in the short term the TECs may be at their most effective by acting as catalysts. Northumberland

Edward Fennell

A standard for managers

The first stage in competence training for managers has been achieved. This autumn, in polytechnics and colleges, through distance learning and at work, more than 2,000 managers are taking part in approved programmes — 25 so far — based on new national standards.

The programme, endorsed by the Management Charter Initiative (MCI), which is the operating arm of the National Forum for Management Education and Development (NFMED), are for the certificate level of management. "It is now possible for employers to recruit, train, develop and assess managers

against national standards," Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of NFMED, says.

The standards for supervisory management will be published early next year. The original plan had been to introduce standards only at junior management level, but organisations such as the National Examining Board for Supervisory Management wanted their members included.

"There can now be progression

from the shopfloor to the boardroom," says Pat Sloane, an MCI executive director, who is responsible for guidelines for the certificate programmes.

To determine the skills of an effective manager, a £2 million research project was carried out, backed by the Training Agency and employers. Mike Day, the executive director leading the research, says: "We took untempered specifications of what managers should be able to do,

and visited organisations to establish standards for supervisors, junior and middle management."

Research has been followed by a year of extensive trials to refine the guidelines of the certificate programmes. Managerial levels will now be marked by a certificate, a diploma and, later, a senior award for strategic management. At certificate level, awarding bodies include the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), the Business and

Technician Education Council (BTEC) and the Scottish Vocational Education Council (ScottVEC).

The same process will apply for the diploma. The standards are established and Sheila Perry, the project manager, has found nearly 50 providers — universities, polytechnics, professional institutions and large employers such as Jaguar and British Telecom — which will test the programmes early next year. They should be in action by next autumn.

SALLY WATTS
Management Charter Initiative, c/o Shell-Mex House, The Strand, London WC2R 0DX.

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The environment will be an integral part of manager training in the Nineties, Patricia Tisdall writes

Turning green for profit

The environment will be one of the main topics on the management agenda in the Nineties. Evidence that businesses are preparing to add cash to good intentions emerged at the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), held in Glasgow this month. Delegates, who do not usually support changes in business methods that are imposed by Parliament, voted unanimously in favour of a motion saying the additional burdens placed on companies by environmental legislation were entirely justified.

Developments that are expected to affect training requirements include a move away from "end-of-pipe" pollution control to waste minimisation and recycling techniques. This will involve the dissemination of environmental management skills throughout the workforce so that they become an integral part of the production process.

A recent study into the labour market implications of environmental management, produced by the Training Agency's skills unit, found senior managers lacking in their awareness of environmental issues and legislation.

Concepts that have spread from the European Community and the United States and are reflected in impending UK legislation have important implications for British companies. These include the principle that "the polluter pays" and a consciousness that waste management is a "cradle-to-grave" affair.

The study concluded that there was a "lack of properly targeted and specialised short courses", and predicted that demand for training would grow.

Two schools of thought are reflected in the business education programmes on offer. The approach developed at the London Business School, a pioneer in environmental management education, starts by pointing out the benefits and costs to the company. Students who include environmental economics as part of their MBAs are advised to begin by finding out what the law requires. "Unless you know the ground rules, you cannot start," says Scott Barrett, the economist responsible for the course.

Mr Barrett is sceptical about recent media hype, which he says had led to muddled thinking and poorly articulated demands. He says managers should apply the same cost justification to the management of green issues as to any other aspect of business, and believes it is up to governments to set the standards.

The course moves on to the benefits of setting a virtuous environmental policy. The global aspect of environmental concern can provide competitive advantages. Students are shown how strategic points can be won from anticipating anti-pollution legislation and building it into policy.

Another approach, advocated by the CBI's environment management unit, is the "green audit", which starts with an evaluation of the impact of every aspect of an organisation on the environment. The audit is described by John Elkington, a leader among a growing band of environmental consultants, as "a management tool comprising a systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well management systems, structures and equipment are performing".

Some companies incorporate audit-driven "green" management exercises into their quality management programmes. Training then becomes part of a general internal drive for managerial excellence.



JULIAN HERBERT

Balancing the issues: Didcot power station on the day the government launched its environment white paper

Although business schools in Europe boomed during the Eighties, a significant change was taking place in company attitudes towards the business school style of management training.

Companies have become more self-confident in analysing what they need from providers of management development programmes, and are demanding that their needs are met. One result has been the growth of organisations providing management education tailored to specific companies' needs.

These range from management consultancies and large European concerns, such as Management Centre Europe and the Ambrosini group, to small, highly specialised training consultancies such as Harbridge House, the TDA Consulting Group and the Management Training Partnership (MTP), all in Britain.

Training consultancies design specific development programmes for companies. They are almost a direct reversal of the traditional business school, open, or public, management development courses, which make a virtue of mixing managers from different companies and cultures and providing general and wide-ranging education.

Training consultants can provide highly sophisticated programmes. Harbridge House, for example, has devised a comprehensive programme with Simoon Engineering that includes 11 modules for senior management. This counts as 45 per cent of an MBA with Sheffield Business School.

The content of the modules was developed by Harbridge after meetings with Simon Engineering's senior management and the programme is geared to company policy. Similarly, TDA provides what it calls "strategic learning", which matches tailored training programmes to planned strategic changes within an

Courses come down to earth

Could the era of the business school be over?

organisation or develops existing management programmes.

The polytechnics are also moving into this area. George Wimpey, the construction group, is working with Ealing College, part of the Thames Valley Polytechnic, to develop a tailored diploma in management administration that may become a "Wimpey MBA".

These changes, and the implications for increased competition, have not been lost on the business schools. Although a few still refuse to be involved in tailoring courses to companies, many have embraced the idea. Several schools now encourage managers taking courses to use material from their company in their studies. Hentley Management College, for example, is closely involved with a number of company and consortium MBAs and has a unit to deliver company-specific courses.

Dominique Heau, the associate dean for executive education at Insead, near Paris, argues that business school courses will become much more a mixture of company-tailored programmes and open courses.

IMD, in Lausanne, Switzerland, another leading international school, is looking at ways of delivering pro-

grammes that blend open courses, tailored learning and in-company consultancy.

At Ashridge, in Hertfordshire, the developing manager skills programme is being redesigned to include some of the ideas that have been promoted by training consultancies. The programme is based on small self-development groups in which the members help one another to identify their training needs. Every individual then drafts his own self-development plan, which tailors the three-week course to his company.

However, the partial entry of the business schools into this market raises what Alan Warner, MTP's managing partner, believes is a crucial dilemma for the schools: who is their customer, the individual or the company? "I do not think that there will be a continuing big market for the bland, general, open post-experience courses," he says. "An MBA is attractive to the individual; the in-company course is attractive to the company. I think it is difficult for the business schools to have a foot in both camps."

The growth of the training market and the response of the business schools has created a highly segmented market for management development programmes and one that Insead's Dominique Heau describes as almost a buyer's market, compared with the oligopoly of the leading business schools a few years ago.

David Hussey, the managing director of Harbridge House, is concerned that the fragmented nature of the management development industry in Britain, where all the leading institutions are about the same size, will prevent any real developments.

GEORGE BICKERSTAFFE

The author is a business and management writer and author of the forthcoming *Economist Intelligence Unit* guides, *Developing Managers* and *Which MBA?*

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One of the few organisations to offer external courses specifically on environmental topics is the Sundridge Park Management Centre. Its three-day residential "Going Green for Profit" workshop was jointly organised with the P.A. Technology consulting group.

Awareness of issues has accelerated since the publication of the government's white paper on the environment in September and the subsequent debates on the environment protection bill. In May, when Sundridge Park launched its workshop, Cate Savage, the programme director, was uncertain about the level of demand. Yet its popularity has prompted the scheduling of three more workshops, to be held next year.

Ms Savage says that enquiries have come from organisations ranging from cosmetics and toiletry companies to local authorities and individual managers.

Environmental Management: Its Impact on Skills and Jobs (A Study of the Labour Market Implications of Environmental Management) summarised in a Skills Special by the Training Agency, free. The full report, *The Impact of Environmental Management on Skills and Jobs*, £15. Both from James Medhurst, *Environ. Research and Consultancy*, 28-34 Albert Street, Birmingham B4 7UD, £15.

Some companies incorporate audit-driven "green" management exercises into their quality management programmes. Training then becomes part of a general internal drive for managerial excellence.

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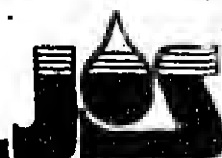
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Morality, now taught at many business schools, is still treated with scepticism, Nicholas Kochan writes

Ethics enter the classroom

Last year, Jack Mahoney, the professor of moral and social theology at King's College Business Ethics Centre in London, had 15 management students on his BSc course in ethics. This year he has 40. Growing student demand is getting through to British business schools, which are at last accepting that ethics should appear on the syllabus. The latest college to introduce the subject is Manchester, under the title "corporate responsibility".

The success of the subject is tempered by resistance from some businessmen and academics. Professor Mahoney says business ethics is "bolted on" to the management course, rather than integrated into every subject. "The ideal is for other teachers to take it into their teaching," he says. However, this would require a reshaping of courses, which many teachers are unwilling to do. Nevertheless, Professor Mahoney believes it is only a matter of time before Britain catches up with American management education, which regards ethics as a central part of the syllabus.

As the title of the Manchester course, corporate responsibility, suggests, there is still confusion about finding a name that accurately describes this hybrid of corporate philosophy and individual practice. Tom Cannon, the director of the Manchester Business School, is suspicious of the term business ethics. "The danger is that you create an intellectual ghetto," he says, believing instead that business ethics is part of a wider system of morality.

He argues that there is no conflict of interest between the ethics of a business and those of the community, although the manager does have a social duty.

According to Mr Cannon, the study of ethics should include issues of management



Learning to choose the "right" course of action: students are taught that profits and ethics are not mutually exclusive

practice, as well as theory. "Every business decision has an ethical dimension," he says, and his course is intended to help students to understand the right course of action. "We give them the tools," he says. Mr Cannon concentrates on the duty of business to pay its dues to the local community. So, for example, if a business has to make redundancies, it would be good ethical practice for it to encourage self-help and job-creation schemes.

Mr Cannon believes that corporate giving to the community is an integral part of the ethical practice of a business but finds it disappointing that so many American and Japanese companies give only to the community in which they have their headquarters, rather than to the people in, perhaps, the north of England

or Scotland, where they have their factories.

One of the problems with encouraging social responsibility in business has been highlighted by Charles Handy in his book, *The Age of Unreason*. Mr Handy says: "It is not the job [of the organisation] to be everyone's alternative community, providing meaning and work for all for life; nor is it their job to be another arm of the state, collecting its taxes... The alternative community idea has also got in the way, some people believe, of the organisation's proper job, which is to deliver quality goods and services to the customer." Mr Handy quotes one chief executive as saying: "My social objectives add 5 per cent to my costs."

The course at King's College takes a more theoretical approach to business ethics than

Manchester, so Professor Mahoney's chief concern is to make students aware of the ethical dimension. He talks of the "social mandate of business", arguing that society is becoming increasingly sensitive to the power of modern business and its ethics, and far from being on the periphery of business study, ethics should be at its heart. He sees similarities between medical ethics and business ethics on the university syllabus.

Professor Mahoney's recent book, *Teaching Business Ethics in the UK, Europe and the USA*, includes a survey of the place of ethics in Britain's business schools, polytechnics and universities. The survey found wide support for making business ethics a compulsory subject. Eight out of 34 respondents said it was

compulsory at their institutions and 18 felt it should be.

Professor Mahoney says: "Britain is still at the exploratory and somewhat tentative stage of laying foundations and establishing the academic status of the subject."

Europe presents a different scene. The subject is entrenched and developing a traditional role in the universities. Closer links between British and European institutions may fertilise research and funding to give a boost to the nascent UK tradition.

The test for business ethics is not in the number of academic tomes it generates or positions it creates in universities, but in the performance of students when they go into management jobs.

In Britain, where ethics and law are still only feeling their way, the success of such a subject remains to be seen.

Socrates declared some time ago: "A man, though wise, should never be ashamed of learning more, and must unbend his mind." The observation is just as relevant to the modern business leader as to any wizened Greek elder. Yet, until recently, chief executives and board directors have been notable by their absence from training programmes.

However, there are signs of an emerging humility. In response to what John Harper, the head of professional development at the Institute of Directors, describes as "consistent demands for expansion", the institute will launch a Centre for Director Development on December 6.

"We have been researching carefully what directors really

A sharing experience

Senior executives have a lot to learn from one another

need in terms of training," Mr Harper says. "We have found that although many are trained as managers, few have any preparation for their role as directors, and once appointed they often find themselves too busy to develop themselves further."

The centre's workshop for managing directors is run by professional and experienced trainers, but Mr Harper says:

"The real value is that each learns from the other."

Another course available for executives, at the Ashridge Management College, in Hertfordshire, has developed a popular action learning programme. This consists of a day every month for six months, and is an attempt to overcome the time constraints from which all Ashridge clients suffer.

Most chief executives are grappling with confidential strategic issues, and open courses, attended by an unvetted selection of delegates, can make them clam up. On the Ashridge programme, six chiefs, from a carefully selected variety of organisations, meet and fix their agenda. The organisations are public, private, large and small. One group included a headmaster. The rationale is that by assembling a group with different business interests, but similar degrees of responsibility, the underlying principles of every member's management style emerge more quickly.

The risk of discussions becoming bogged down in detail is also vastly reduced. Participants' concerns may cover anything from how to develop a more appropriate strategic plan to whether an acquisition should go ahead, and, in the headmaster's case, how to introduce a greater awareness of the financial constraints of running a school, while retaining traditional standards.

One pressure all participants share is the isolation of their position. Another is the difficulty of balancing home



Jean Lammiman: in touch

life against business demands. Too many chief executives keep their self-doubt to themselves, and this bottling-up causes even greater stress. The pressures of the job do not allow these people the time to form close, enduring friendships. This adds to the loneliness, and subsequently the stress, of their position.

These feelings are not improved by the suspicion among leading executives that if they are not perfect they ought to be. Meeting others in similar positions helps them to accept the "humanness" of their position.

Sharing problems with their peers can also improve bosses' relationships with subordinates. One Ashridge participant notes: "It developed quite a good attitude in myself, listening to other people rather than trying to jump in and give the answers."

The management consultancy, Ambrosetti, aims to

help chief executives to understand change, "and then exploit it and use it as a means of success rather than as an excuse for defeat," Jean Lammiman, the company's UK chief executive, says.

The Alpha-Plus programme she runs is, like the Ashridge programme, a series of monthly one-day workshops. The aim is to keep "very senior managers", who join Alpha-Plus by invitation, in touch with the latest thinking of business leaders, public figures and academics. Speakers, selected for "pragmatism and their relevance", have included Sir Brian Corby, the president of the CBI, Theo Sommer, the editor-in-chief of *Die Zeit*, and Edward Luttwak, an adviser to the Pentagon.

Mitchell Phoenix, another organisation specialising in training senior management, adopts a "top-down" approach, intended to bring about an overall culture change in a business. The idea is that every senior manager can become a mentor for those he or she manages. The system of the monthly one-day session for six months is used. "The onus on participants to report back every month to their peers on concrete actions they have taken is an important motivation in achieving tangible results," John Mitchell, the chairman, says.

A common feature of the programmes is the emphasis on the input of delegates, which often eclipses the contribution of the trainer. The more chief executives see the need for training and development for themselves, the greater the potential for improved standards.

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HOBSTONES

HOBSTONES

Continued on next page

Lamb assured that he will be given the team he wants

Lloyd given with great

"With the captain in sole charge, everyone knows who is in the driving seat and I am

in captaincy ter status

think I've put on some weight and I'm very keen to start training again before I get fat, but the physio has warned me against running too soon."

news. On Sunday an experimental one-day match will be played in Christchurch between Canterbury and Auckland, designed to provide greater entertainment. Teams can draw on 13 players, a batsman may have

Flat out over the blind brow

Not so plain

STUDENT SPORT

er Andrews

PETANQUE
Little danger

Not so plain sailing for Andrews

Gerard Mitchell and Michael Howler, also of Portsmouth,

winning the first three races to take the title outright.

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**COMMERCIAL
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Tradition wins the day as the four-ball format is retained after the players protest

British pair inspire togetherness in golf's Olympics

From MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

A PROTEST by Sam Torrance and Ian Woosnam has forced officials to abandon plans to speed up play in the World Cup of Golf, sponsored by Kraft General Foods, which starts here today on the Grand Cypress course.

The International Golf Association, organiser of an event promoted by the Farall Media Group, surprised contestants by announcing that the usual four-ball format was being dropped and replaced by two-ball play, necessitating team colleagues to be separated.

Torrance and Woosnam immediately vented their disgust and Payne Stewart, the former United States PGA champion, grasped the nettle by organising a petition opposing the IGA's decision to rewrite the playing regulations.

Burch Riber, the executive director of the IGA, said: "The petition was supported by a large majority of the 64 players here and, with such a groundswell of disagreement among the players, we considered it right to revert to traditional four-ball play in spite of criticism that we were caving in. In the past, and in the future, the World Cup of Golf has been, and will be, for the players, bringing them together under an umbrella of goodwill, and the IGA will always cater for the need of the

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	363	4	10	292	4
2	510	5	11	618	5
3	156	3	12	383	4
4	451	4	13	384	4
5	451	4	14	384	4
6	383	4	15	404	4
7	182	3	16	183	3
8	182	3	17	183	3
9	3410	36	18	3410	36

Total yardage: 6,761 Par: 72

Whether the decision to change the format was right or wrong is one thing, but having taken a decision to do so, the IGA might have been wiser to stick to its guns. The experiment could have taken place with a post-mortem to determine whether or not it was successful.

On the other hand, players who signed the petition cannot criticise the speed of play, however slow it might be, over the next four days.

David Feherty, who has not before played in the World Cup, shared with Roman Rafferty, with whom he plays for Ireland, the opinion that it might have been advantageous to be separated. "I think it can be counter-productive to play with your partner," he said. "It is surely best to get on with it and play your own game."

"I'm looking forward to the event. My goal is to play in the Ryder Cup, which is the high temple of pressure. I obviously enjoyed the experience of leading Ireland to victory in the Dunhill Cup but I believe there to be a niche for that event and the World Cup."

The World Cup of Golf has for several years been trading under the name of "Olympics of Golf" as it was christened by John Jay Hopkins, the founder, would appear to be firmly back on terra firma again with Heineken and Delta Air Lines linking with Kraft General Foods to provide a prize fund of \$1.1 million.



Putting the case for an undivided team: Torrance does not favour the two-ball game

Arsenal decide to give up their right of appeal

ARSENAL have decided not to appeal against the Football Association's deduction of two League points and fine of £50,000, imposed for their players' part in the Old Trafford brawl with Manchester United.

The Manchester club, which was also fined £50,000 and had one point deducted, is due to decide today whether it is lodging an appeal, which has to be submitted within 14 days of the hearing.

A statement from Highbury said: "The directors have unanimously agreed that they will not be lodging an appeal against the recent decision of the Football Association regarding the incident at Old Trafford and therefore the matter is at an end."

Bobby Gould is likely to join Queen's Park Rangers when his contract as Wimbledon manager expires next month and link again with Don Howe, coach to the west London club. They were together at Plough Lane as manager and coach and led Wimbledon to FA Cup final victory over Liverpool in 1988. Five Berlin, the QPR managing director, said Gould would work with Howe in an undefined staff role.

Paul Lake, Manchester City's England Under-21 international defender, is unlikely to play again this season after undergoing a second operation to repair severely damaged knee ligaments.

Four Toulon officials were charged with fraud and embezzlement last month after police discovered a new company set up to channel false payments to players. Judge Jean-Pierre Zanotto, in charge of the Toulon inquiry, said their questioning was not connected with the Toulon case, and police said the Bordeaux investigations were strictly related to that club's finances.

Officials questioned

PARIS (Reuters) - Police have questioned players and officials from the Marseille and Bordeaux football clubs concerning suspected irregularities with transfers from Toulon. Jean-Pierre Bernes, the Marseille general secretary, and Alain Broche, the club's financial director, were held after files on transfers were seized. The general manager of Bordeaux, Didier Couecou, was also held.

Not how it seems on the surface

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
THE Don Valley Stadium track to Sheffield, praised by some of the world's leading athletes when it was opened two months ago, falls short of the standard demanded by Sheffield for Health Ltd, the company which operates the track, it has been discovered. Some sections of the track, part of a £28 million facility, are too thin and need resurfacing.

When the stadium hosted the McVitie's Challenge, on September 16, it drew widespread applause. "I like the track... it is possible for a world record here," said Aouf Karim, a 400m runner. "It is quick," Linford Christie said. "The track is fast," Yvonne Murray said.

However, Sheffield City Council, which provides financial aid to Sheffield for Health Ltd, said yesterday that it did not meet the specifications agreed. "The depth should have been 13 millimetres but our technical people have discovered that it is averaging about eight," John Taylor, the senior assistant director of the council's recreation department, said.

The World Student Games, which have faced a multitude of problems, are to be held in Sheffield in July. "The main concern of the people involved in this discovery was the Games, but there is nothing to threaten them," Taylor added. "We have a AAA certificate which does not expire until December 31, 1991." An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokesman said yesterday the track would be acceptable for records.

Mason wants Lonsdale belt

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

Speaking on a telephone link from his training camp in Florida, Mason said he was looking forward to the bout as he wanted to win the Lonsdale Belt. "I don't want to look backwards but I want to win the Lonsdale Belt," he said. "I was in my worst shape when I stopped Tyrell Bissop quicker than Tyson could stop him. Whether Lewis runs or fights he will get stopped early. Lonsdale Lewis has done nothing to prove he can fight a man with a record like mine."

When Duff suggested Lewis might make "what in military terms is known as a strategic withdrawal," Mason disagreed. "Lewis has got too much bottle to withdraw," Mason said. "Tell Lonsdale Lewis not to make a mistake with the Italian. Remember what happened to Derek Williams." Mason was referring to Williams' defeat in a European title bout against Jean Chauret, of France. Lewis has a European defence on December 5 against Cesare di Benetto, of Italy.

The British champion, who had blown up to nearly 19st during his period of inactivity, said he would be under 17st for Pritchard. He blamed his earlier failures to reduce weight, even at health farms, on his state of mind. But under his new manager, Duff, said with a licence to box on after his retina operation, he felt like a new man. His diet has been carefully monitored in America and he was running twice a day.

Mason was already looking beyond Lewis to a world title bout with Evander Holyfield, the world champion. "I've always wanted the world title and I'm hoping that after George Foreman's fight, he will be in the mix," he said. Mason thinks that after beating Foreman Holyfield might slip him in before defending against Tyson.

MOTOR RACING
McLaren move on test track plan

RON Dennis, the managing director of the TAG/McLaren Group, has announced plans for an advanced research facility and test track for his Formula One team and other automotive interests (John Blunsden writes). Dennis is embarking on a joint venture with Tom Bissett, the owner of the Lydden circuit, to develop the test track into the most sophisticated facility of its kind in Europe.

Although the present track, which is best known for its promotion of rallycross events, is only one mile in length, the company formed by Dennis and Bissett, Lydden Circuit Ltd, either already owns or is to acquire 150 acres of adjacent land, giving ample scope for extension and remodeling.

The aim is to do so in a manner which will, through the establishment of a high technology company at the circuit, provide jobs and assist the local community in their efforts to attract new industries to the area. Ferrari, until now the only Formula One team to own its own test track and adjacent research establishment, has gained tremendous benefit from its facility at Fiorano, in Italy, at a time when the increasing sophistication of grand prix cars means that a leading team needs to be circuit tested virtually every week of the year.

The venture, which will also help the development of local areas, is going to be a sport at Lydden. "Lydden needs to change and develop if it is to fulfil its real potential," Bissett said, "and if it is to meet the environmental standards that both ourselves and the local community would like to see."

A private test and development facility has been part of Dennis's strategic plan for the TAG/McLaren Group since its formation in 1987, and at one time he had hoped to secure Blackbushe Airport in Surrey for such a venture.

Hearn and Sky seek face-saver

By STEVE ACTESON

BARRY Hearn, the promoter of the endangered £1 million Sky World Masters, and David Hill, executive producer of Sky Television's Eurosport channel, will tomorrow attempt to formulate a face-saving solution to ensure the event goes ahead in January (Steve Acteson writes).

It would be dreadfully sad if it did not, encompassing as it does a vivacious blend of men's and women's singles and doubles, mixed doubles, a junior event, 110 hours of television and considerable prize-money.

The problem, however, is Alex Higgins. The Irishman is suspended, all season, from professional play by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA). The Masters is not so sanctioned and Hearn and Hill are inviting Higgins, provoking a boycott by 16 players including the world champion, Stephen Hendry.

The controversy is also detracting from Hearn's promotion, the Storm-Sea Island Kingdom championship in Preston. Alan MacManus and Jon Birch, two first-class professionals, created a mighty stir on Monday night by accounting for two of the top 16 seeds. Birch, the 1989 world amateur championship runner-up, defeated Dean Reynolds, ranked eighth, 9-7.

REMARKS: Yesterday's fourth round: W. Thorne (Eng) beats C. Ross (Wales) 7-1; S. Jones (Eng) beats A. Knowles (Eng) 5-3; J. Higgins (Ire) beats P. Bevington (Eng) 5-3; J. White (Eng) beats P. Parrott (Wal) 5-3; W. Jones (Wales) beats J. Higgins (Eng) 5-3; D. McNulty (Wales) and G. Widdows (England), level at 4-4; O. Powell (Eng) beats R. Hobbard (Wales) 5-3.

English and Scots go separate ways

By RODDY MACKENZIE

ENGLAND and Scotland have been forced to send separate teams to the European men's championships next summer as the new Great Britain men's squad are not affiliated to the European Confederation (CEV).

While England's qualifying tournament will take place from June 5-9 against Spain, Poland, Yugoslavia, Turkey and San Marino, Scotland face a formidable draw for their return to the first time since 1971. The Scots will play in the qualifying event in Povungskaya, Bystica, Czechoslovakia, May 6-12, against, among others, the Soviet Union, the 11-times European champions.

Meanwhile, Team Mizuno Malory stretched their advantage at the top of the men's first division of the Royal Bank English League in spite of a substandard performance against Purbeck Portsmouth, the bottom club.

The London club, now firm favourites for their fourth successive title, surprisingly dropped a set, only their third this season, before winning 15-7, 15-3, 8-15, 15-7. Their closest challengers, Speedwell Runcorn, lost at home to Polonia 12-15, 7-15, 8-15 and are now four points adrift.

Woolwich Brixton Knights, who had Chris Hazell back for their 15-3, 15-12, 15-9 win over Hilton Leeds on Sunday, remain on top of the women's first division and their match with Mizuno Britannia on December 15 looks increasingly significant. Neither side has lost so far and Britannia conceded 15 points in total during their 15-10, 15-3, 15-2 win at Scorpions on Sunday.

RESULTS: Royal Bank National League: when first division: Team Mizuno Malory 15-7, 15-3, 8-15, 15-7; Speedwell Runcorn 12-15, 7-15, 8-15, 15-7; Polonia 12-15, 7-15, 8-15, 15-7; Brixton Knights 15-7, 15-3, 8-15, 15-7; Hilton Leeds 15-7, 15-3, 8-15, 15-7.

Team trickery exposed

THE £2,500 William Hill Sports Book of the Year award was won yesterday by *Rough Ride*, which graphically records the team trickery and drug-taking in cycling events like the Tour de France and was written by Paul Kimmage, a former professional (John Goodbody writes).

The book, by Kimmage, now a journalist on the *Sunday Tribune* in Dublin, finished narrowly ahead of *Ranji*, A. English's *Rich and Strange* by Simon Willmet, a member of the *Times* sports department and published by Kingswood. *Rough Ride*, published by

Prizes for rulers of the waves

PENNY WAY, Britain's top board sailor, Robin Johnson, the round-the-world yachtman, and Sir Owen Aisher, the "Grand Old Man of yachting," were the principal prize-winners at the Silt Cut nautical awards presented in London yesterday for outstanding endeavour during the past season (Barry Pickthall writes).

Tracy Edwards' Whitbread Round the World Race yacht, Maiden, was selected yacht of the year. Way was named helmswoman of the year following her victory last month in the world championship off Buenos Aires. Knox-Johnston, was given the seamanship award following his traumatic solo voyage, retracing the route of Christopher Columbus. OTHER SILT CUT AWARDS: Individual rescue award: Tony Hoag Club Service award: Commander R. Byrne OBE, Royal Yacht Club, Plymouth. Small boat award: Hushaw Infiniti. Most successful equipment design award: Delta. Most innovative award: Delta. Technical innovation award: Julian Evers and his yacht, Wave Tack.

IN BRIEF

Scots pair unbeaten
GRAHAM Robertson and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, emerged as the only undefeated partnership in the Hong Kong Bank international bowls classic pairs after three further rounds yesterday.

They overcame Canada 32-17 in their third round clash yesterday morning, added a 32-13 win in their afternoon match with a Hong Kong club side, United Services, and then beat the 1988 winners, Noel Kennedy and Mark McMahon, of Hong Kong, 24-15.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The Los Angeles Raiders stopped Miami's six-game winning streak by beating the Dolphins 13-10.

GOLF: Nick Faldo and Greg Norman head the entries for the \$870,000 Johnnie Walker Classic tournament at Melbourne on December 6 to 9.

BOXING: Pat Barrett, the European lightweight champion, suspended on Sunday when a 14-day notice to hand back a Central Area belt he won in 1988 expired, will hand the belt back today.

YACHTING: Five of the 1992 America's Cup skippers and crews will meet in Sydney Harbour in the Twelve Mile Challenge next year starting on January 26.

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TENNIS

Javer still in favour for Nantes team

MONIQUE Javer, aged 23, the British No. 1, who missed her recent national championships in California, is still in favour. The California-based Javer has been selected to play for Britain in the European team championships in Nantes, France, from November 29 to December 2.

Jo Durie, the reigning British champion from Bristol, Sara Gomer, of Torquay, and Clare Wood, of Sussex, complete the team announced yesterday by Ann Jones, the LTA women's international director.

Sarah Loosmore, aged 19, from Wales, who was originally selected as the fourth member of the team, is unable to play. She is still suffering from a stomach muscle injury which she first incurred during the Federation Cup to July.

Britain, a finalist last year following impressive victories over Sweden and Italy, has kept its place in division one since the event was established in 1986.

The Soviet Union, the defending champions, include Natalya Zvereva and Larisa Savchenko in their team and are likely to win again.

Jones said: "I'm looking forward to the competition. Our girls played extremely well to reach the quarter-finals of the Federation Cup this year and I'm confident that in her present form, Jo Durie will be able to cause the kind of upset she achieved 10 Nantes last year."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles Raiders 10, Miami Dolphins 15.

ATHLETICS

WOOD GREEN: Veterans indoor meeting (100m: 15.8, 200m: 32.5, 400m: 1.05, 800m: 2.15, 1500m: 4.15, 5000m: 16.5, 10000m: 34.5, 20000m: 1.05, 30000m: 1.55, 40000m: 2.15, 50000m: 2.55, 60000m: 3.15, 70000m: 3.55, 80000m: 4.15, 90000m: 4.55, 100000m: 5.15, 110000m: 5.55, 120000m: 6.15, 130000m: 6.55, 140000m: 7.15, 150000m: 7.55, 160000m: 8.15, 170000m: 8.55, 180000m: 9.15, 190000m: 9.55, 200000m: 10.15, 210000m: 10.55, 220000m: 11.15, 230000m: 11.55, 240000m: 12.15, 250000m: 12.55, 260000m: 13.15, 270000m: 13.55, 280000m: 14.15, 290000m: 14.55, 300000m: 15.15, 310000m: 15.55, 320000m: 16.15, 330000m: 16.55, 340000m: 17.15, 350000m: 17.55, 360000m: 18.15, 370000m: 18.55, 380000m: 19.15, 390000m: 19.55, 400000m: 20.15, 410000m: 20.55, 420000m: 21.15, 430000m: 21.55, 440000m: 22.15, 450000m: 22.55, 460000m: 23.15, 470000m: 23.55, 480000m: 24.15, 490000m: 24.55, 500000m: 25.15, 510000m: 25.55, 520000m: 26.15, 530000m: 26.55, 540000m: 27.15, 550000m: 27.55, 560000m: 28.15, 570000m: 28.55, 580000m: 29.15, 590000m: 29.55, 600000m: 30.15, 610000m: 30.55, 620000m: 31.15, 630000m: 31.55, 640000m: 32.15, 650000m: 32.55, 660000m: 33.15, 670000m: 33.55, 680000m: 34.15, 690000m: 34.55, 700000m: 35.15, 710000m: 35.55, 720000m: 36.15, 730000m: 36.55, 740000m: 37.15, 750000m: 37.55, 760000m: 38.15, 770000m: 38.55, 780000m: 39.15, 790000m: 39.55, 800000m: 40.15, 810000m: 40.55, 820000m: 41.15, 830000m: 41.55, 840000m: 42.15, 850000m: 42.55, 860000m: 43.15, 870000m: 43.55, 880000m: 44.15, 890000m: 44.55, 900000m: 45.15, 910000m: 45.55, 920000m: 46.15, 930000m: 46.55, 940000m: 47.15, 950000m: 47.55, 960000m: 48.15, 970000m: 48.55, 980000m: 49.15, 990000m: 49.55, 1000000m: 50.15, 1010000m: 50.55, 1020000m: 51.15, 1030000m: 51.55, 1040000m: 52.15, 1050000m: 52.55, 1060000m: 53.15, 1070000m: 53.55, 1080000m: 54.15, 1090000m: 54.55, 1100000m: 55.15, 1110000m: 55.55, 1120000m: 56.15, 1130000m: 56.55, 1140000m: 57.15, 1150000m: 57.55, 1160000m: 58.15, 1170000m: 58.55, 1180000m: 59.15, 1190000m: 59.55, 1200000m: 60.15, 1210000m: 60.55, 1220000m: 61.15, 1230000m: 61.55, 1240000m: 62.15, 1250000m: 62.55, 1260000m: 63.15, 1270000m: 63.55, 1280000m: 64.15, 1290000m: 64.55, 1300000m: 65.15, 1310000m: 65.55, 1320000m: 66.15, 1330000m: 66.55, 1340000m: 67.15, 1350000m: 67.55, 1360000m: 68.15, 1370000m: 68.55, 1380000m: 69.15, 1390000m: 69.55, 1400000m: 70.15, 1410000m: 70.55, 1420000m: 71.15, 1430000m: 71.55, 1440000m: 72.15, 1450000m: 72.55, 1460000m: 73.15, 1470000m: 73.55, 1480000m: 74.15, 1490000m: 74.55, 1500000m: 75.15, 1510000m: 75.55, 1520000m: 76.15, 1530000m: 76.55, 1540000m: 77.15, 1550000m: 77.55, 1560000m: 78.15, 1570000m: 78.55, 1580000m: 79.15, 1590000m: 79.55, 1600000m: 80.15, 1610000m: 80.55, 1620000m: 81.15, 1630000m: 81.55, 1640000m: 82.15, 1650000m: 82.55, 1660000m: 83.15, 1670000m: 83.55, 1680000m: 84.15, 1690000m: 84.55, 1700000m: 85.15, 1710000m: 85.55, 1720000m: 86.15, 1730000m: 86.55, 1740000m: 87.15, 1750000m: 87.55, 1760000m: 88.15, 1770000m: 88.55, 1780000m: 89.15, 1790000m: 89.55, 1800000m: 90.15, 1810000m: 90.55, 1820000m: 91.15, 1830000m: 91.55, 1840000m: 92.15, 1850000m: 92.55, 1860000m: 93.15, 1870000m: 93.55, 1880000m: 94.15, 1890000m: 94.55, 1900000m: 95.15, 1910000m: 95.55, 1920000m: 96.15, 1930000m: 96.55, 1940000m: 97.15, 1950000m: 97.55, 1960000m: 98.15, 1970000m: 98.55, 1980000m: 99.15, 1990000m: 99.55, 2000000m: 100.15, 2010000m: 100.55, 2020000m: 101.15, 2030000m: 101.55, 2040000m: 102.15, 2050000m: 102.55, 2060000m: 103.15, 2070000m: 103.55, 2080000m: 104.15, 2090000m: 104.55, 2100000m: 105.15, 2110000m: 105.55, 2120000m: 106.15, 2130000m: 106.55, 2140000m: 107.15, 2150000m: 107.55, 2160000m: 108.15, 2170000m: 108.55, 2180000m: 109.15, 2190000m: 109.55, 2200000m: 110.15, 2210000m: 110.55, 2220000m: 111.15, 2230000m: 111.55, 2240000m: 112.15, 2250000m: 112.55, 2260000m: 113.15, 2270000m: 113.55, 2280000m: 114.15, 2290000m: 114.55, 2300000m: 115.15, 2310000m: 115.55, 2320000m: 116.15, 2330000m: 116.55, 2340000m: 117.15, 2350000m: 117.55, 2360000m: 118.15, 2370000m: 118.55, 2380000m: 119.15, 2390000m: 119.55, 2400000m: 120.15, 2410000m: 120.55, 2420000m: 121.15, 2430000m: 121.55, 2440000m: 122.15, 2450000m: 122.55, 2460000m: 123.15, 2470000m: 123.55, 2480000m: 124.15, 24

